

Hafa Adai!

Court finds probable cause to try man accused of shooting car. **PAGE 3**
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\$1

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AT A GLANCE

As of 7:10pm, Jan. 20, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **98.3%**
Fully Vaccinated: **98.3%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech			
Initiated:	37,362		
Fully Vaccinated:	36,125		
Moderna			
Initiated:	5,313		
Fully Vaccinated:	5,132		
Janssen			
Fully vaccinated:	1,119		

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	25,028	729	25,757
Recovered	19,488	8	19,496
Active	5,256	729	5,985
Deaths	276	0	276

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,014	104*	4,118
Traced via Travel Screening	452	15	467
Traced via Community Screening	3,562	89	3,651
Deaths	21	0	21

*1/20=51; 1/29=53

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan-born-and-raised Alejandro "Alex" Buniag Jr. is promoted to the rank of colonel.

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NATION

People across the U.S. can log on to a government website and order free, at-home COVID-19 tests.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Scientists are exploring a rare stretch of pristine corals shaped like roses off the coast of Tahiti.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)



» First in NMI history for two women to run together for top executive positions

51 new cases in NMI

A total of 51 additional individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 last Wednesday, Jan. 19, while 53 more cases were identified on Tuesday, Jan. 18, bringing the CNMI total to 4,118 cases since March 26, 2020, according to separate Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. news releases last night and late Wednesday night.

Of the 51 cases identified last Wednesday, 23 were identified via contact tracing, 17 via community testing, and 11 via travel testing.

Of the 53 cases identified on Tuesday, 21 were

See 51 on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), left, has chosen Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan) as her running mate, making them the first two women in CNMI history who are running together for the top executive positions in the government.

Air Busan to start Busan-Saipan route this month

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Air Busan, which is interested in tapping into the South Korean travel bubble in place for the CNMI, will officially start providing Busan-Saipan charters as early as this Sunday, Jan. 23.

During a board meeting last Tuesday, majority of the Marianas Visitors Authority board voted in favor of subsidizing six Air Busan charter flights starting Jan. 23 in partnership with Micronesia Resort Inc.

Micronesia Resort Inc. operates the Kensington Hotel

Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan.

The first flight is expected to arrive on Jan. 23, followed by its next flight on Jan. 30. There will also be four Air Busan charters flying into the CNMI

See AIR BUSAN on Page 4

42,376 Fully vaccinated

43,794 First dose

Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

Local

House panel asks Atalig for information on lawyer fees JGO witnesses incurred

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has requested Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to appear for a meeting today, Friday, to provide it information on, among other things, the amount of attorneys' fees the witnesses incurred for appearing before the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee in its investigation into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

In her letter Tuesday to Atalig, Ways and Means Committee vice chair Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) asked Atalig to brief them at the 10am meeting in the House's chamber about

attorney's fees contract amounts and payments made as of Dec. 31, 2021.

Most of the witnesses retained private lawyers as their counsel in the JGO hearings. The Office of the Attorney General approved the hirings.



Magofna



Atalig

Magofna also requested Atalig to brief them about the distribution of \$80 million the CNMI received under the American Rescue Plan Act, the annual fiscal report for fiscal year 2021 that is past due, the fiscal year 2022 first quarter expenditure report,

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The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

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and CARES Act expenditures report.

The lawmaker also asked Atalig to talk about the guidance for premium pay and retirees' bonuses, reprogramming report for fiscal year 2022 as of Dec. 31, 2021, reporting on "travel bucks" for tourists as of Dec. 31, 2021, and other fiscal-related matters.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the request, Magofna said the financial report to the Legislature for fiscal year 2021 was due on Dec. 31, 2021, and is now almost three weeks late. She said Atalig had asked for an extension to Jan. 14, 2022, and has already missed his own proposed deadline.

Magofna said it is important that the committee receives a briefing on Torres' reprogramming of funds status as of Dec. 31, 2021 to ensure that the governor is complying and adhering to the law.

She said it is also important to know whether Torres has exceeded his 25% reprogramming authority because any reprogramming of funds above that will require legislative approval.

With regards to the premium pay that was recently paid out before Christmas, the lawmaker said they continue to receive messages of complaints and concerns from constituents and taxpayers.

She said Atalig has promised to publish guidance for the premium pay bonuses, but that they have yet to see that guidance even though the bonuses have already been paid out.

"It is imperative and important that we get the guidelines and criteria on how these payouts were determined as far as who was entitled to receive it and how much," Magofna said.

She said it appears that there may be some inequalities and unfair treatment going on, thus the need for the guidelines and criteria to help clarify the process that was taken.

Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) said these financial reports inform the Legislature of the financial state the CNMI is in.

Manglona pointed out that, in understanding the revenues and expenditures, it allows the legislators to plan ahead, but also identify areas of concerns so they can address them.

Court finds probable cause to try man accused of shooting car

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man who is accused of shooting a car along Beach Road over a week ago.

Following a preliminary hearing for Bradley Derick Hocog on Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan found probable cause to try him for multiple charges for allegedly shooting a car along Beach Road, Susupe.

After the court heard the

testimony of Detective Melvin D. Cadiang of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Department of Public Safety, the court found probable cause to believe that Hocog committed the crimes of unlawful transportation of firearm, unlawful discharge of firearm, possession of a firearm in a gun-free zone, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Hocog, who was remanded back to the custody of the Department of Corrections following the hearing, was ordered to return to court to be

arraigned on Jan. 24, at 9am.

During the preliminary hearing, the government was represented by Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds and assistant attorney general Carmen V. Borja while Hocog was represented by assistant public defender Karie Comstock.

According to court documents, Hocog is accused of shooting a car along Beach Road on Jan. 10, while his ex-girlfriend's daughter was in the car.

Police reports stated that both the victims in the case—

Leon Camacho and Jayda Pangelinan—and Hocog and his girlfriend went to the police station voluntarily to report the incident immediately after the shooting.

In a statement from Camacho and Pangelinan, Hocog allegedly shot their vehicle twice while Camacho tried to overtake the vehicle Hocog was riding in. Pangelinan's mother is a former girlfriend of Hocog.

However, in an interview with Hocog's current girlfriend, Labian Muna, she said they were driving along Beach

Road when she noticed Camacho and Pangelinan in a white SUV "pacing" their car. When the SUV was in the lane next to them, she said she saw Pangelinan taking a video of their vehicle, which upset Hocog and prompted him to flip them off. After doing so, Muna said she heard a crash that she described as a window shattering before feeling something wet but she didn't see what it was as she was focused on the road.

Later, she saw Muna pull out his gun and fire at the SUV in a downward direction.

Meanwhile, in an interview with police, Hocog said he was just trying to protect his family. He claims that after flipping off Camacho and Pangelinan, he heard a crash and when he turned around, he saw their daughter was wet and crying. This prompted him to get his gun from his bag. However, he claims he didn't intend to hurt them; he just wanted to scare them. After shooting at the car, he told Muña to drive to the police station so they could report what had happened.



T-Project donates beauty products to Guma Esperansa

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Seeking to empower women who have endured violence, nonprofit organization T-Project CNMI donated on Wednesday several gift bags containing a variety of beauty products to the women of Guma Esperansa.

T-Project founder Tyra Sablan said Wednesday that T-Project wanted to give back to the women of Guma Esperansa who may have been going through hardships through the holiday season. Sablan added that, when experiencing domestic violence, one's confidence often diminishes. She and T-Project hope the beauty products empower the women.

T-Project and Karidat Social Services representatives who were present for the donation included Sablan, T-Project junior ambassadors Pettie Lucas, Keo Ngirachelong, and Nicki Keremen, Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, and Karidat human trafficking outreach specialist Savannah Lyn Delos Santos.

"We wanted to encourage them...to keep their heads up, remain beautiful always, and encourage strong women all around to be powerful. ...A lot of the times when we experience violence, es-

pecially domestic violence, our confidence diminishes, and so we wanted to bring back that power and give that power back to women," said Sablan.

According to Sablan, 25 gift bags were donated, roughly valued at \$30 per bag. Each gift bag contained perfume, facial moisturizer, body cream, lotion, and nail polish.

Ogumoro shared Sablan's sentiments, saying that the women of Guma Esperansa, no matter what they've been through, are and will always be beautiful.

"This is a really powerful message that...[empowers] them and gives them their strength. ...No matter what happens in their life, they're always beautiful," she said.

Guma Esperansa is one of Karidat's many services. Guma Esperansa was founded in 2001 and provides sanctuary, counseling, and advocacy for victims and their children. According to Karidat's website, all shelter services are "free and confidential and are available regardless of citizenship, ethnicity, or immigration status."

T-Project is a trans-led nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and creating safe spaces for the CNMI's LGBTQ community.

Representatives of nonprofit organizations T-Project and Karidat Social Services share a group photo at Karidat's Chalan Kanoa office on Wednesday after T-Project donated several gift bags containing a variety of beauty products to the women of Guma Esperansa. T-Project representatives in the picture include founder Tyra Sablan and junior ambassadors Pettie Lucas, Keo Ngirachelong, and Nicki Keremen. Karidat representatives in the picture include executive director Lauri Ogumoro and Karidat human trafficking outreach specialist Savannah Lyn Delos Santos. JOSHUA SANTOS

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Court takes OAG's motion to dismiss E-Land suit under advisement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has taken under advisement the Office of the Attorney General's most recent motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the Mariana E-Land Corp. against the Department of Public Lands over the cancellation of their lease agreement.

After hearing arguments from both parties last Wednesday regarding the OAG's motion for dismissal, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho took the matter under advisement, saying he will issue a ruling in the case.

In his motion to dismiss, John Lowrey, OAG Civil Division chief and counsel

to DPL, asked the Superior Court to dismiss E-Land's lawsuit with prejudice for failing to state a claim. To dismiss a case with prejudice means the case will be permanently dismissed and cannot be filed again.

"E-Land has failed to state a claim for relief for all causes of action, and its complaint should be dismissed with prejudice and without leave to amend, because any amendment would be futile," Lowrey said.

In addition, he said, DPL lawfully rescinded the notice of award because the proposed lease did not comply with DPL regulations. "Because DPL's decision to rescind the notice of award to E-Land was

lawful and required by regulations, E-Land cannot prevail on its claim for injunctive relief," he said.

He explained that E-Land never formed a contract with DPL regarding the RFP, and any lease agreement would need to be approved by the attorney general and Legislature before it could take effect.

Lowrey added that a lease that does not comply with DPL's regulations is void, and must be rejected as outside of DPL's legal capacity. Had the attorney general not rejected the lease, it would still have been void, Lowrey added.

"Even if the attorney general did not reject the lease, and DPL did not rescind the notice of award to E-Land, DPL

could not agree to E-Land's suggested changes to the lease and the parties would not have been able to execute a final lease. Assuming that DPL accepted E-Land's suggested changes, the attorney general did not reject the lease, and the lease was not yet discovered to be void *ab initio* for failure to comply with DPL's regulations, the CNMI Legislature would still have to approve the lease. Per Commonwealth law, DPL 'may not transfer an interest in more than five hectares of public land for use for commercial purposes without approval of the Legislature in a joint session,'" Lowrey said.

On July 2021, E-Land, which owns and operates Kensington Hotel Saipan,

prevent DPL and/or the acting secretary from reissuing RFP20-RED004 until such time that the court has ruled on E-Land's complaint.

In August 2021, Camacho issued a preliminary injunction preventing DPL from reissuing RFP-RED004 pending a determination of the merits of the plaintiff's complaint.

COVID

From Page 1

has initially purchased 500 million at-home, rapid tests to mail free to every American household that asks for them. "As the program was gearing up, we told HHS we were concerned that without residential mail delivery in the Marianas the website might not ship here," Sablan said. "But people who enter their U.S. Postal Service post office box number in the Marianas are successfully ordering tests."

The tests will begin shipping on Jan. 24.

A problem has arisen for those in the Marianas who use a private mailbox company for mail delivery. "Constituents are telling us the website sees those 'PMB' addresses as commercial rather than residential, and is rejecting the orders," Sablan said. About one thousand individuals in the Marianas use a PMB mailing address.

"A nationwide program is going to have some glitches at the beginning," Sablan said. "A household of one person will get four tests. A household of ten people will get four tests. At first there will be some inconsistencies, just as there were with vaccine distribution."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

AIR BUSAN

From Page 1

on Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 under this agreement.

A 6-1 vote carried the motion last Tuesday with board member Marian Aldan Pierce as the only vote in opposition. Meanwhile, Gloria Cavanagh recused herself from the voting due to a conflict of interest.

According to MVA manag-

ing director Priscilla Iakopo, helping subsidize this charter is a great opportunity for the CNMI to build a relationship with a new airline. In turn, the hope is that after the six charter flights, Air Busan will continue to provide regular scheduled flights from Busan to Saipan.

"As we know, in the month of February we're only going to be receiving Incheon flights. This is also an opportunity for

us to partner with a new airline considering the current position in Korea, how they're really moving forward with the booster shots. The sentiments there are that they're starting to feel more comfortable. Although they saw a surge again of omicron, it's not as bad as it was with delta so we feel, based on the numbers in January, with only one airline that has been overbooked, we really do need another airline to

come on board and to have it in another city. I think this is a great opportunity for us," she said.

Based on the proposal presented to the board, Air Busan passengers will receive incentives such as "travel bucks" that will go directly to the passenger.

In addition, MVA will also provide a \$10,000 subsidy per flight that will go to directly to MRI, which is essentially spearheading the charter.

STAFFLER

From Page 1

public forums to bring the community together to discuss difficult issues of the day.

"We also worked together on the popular initiative to reapply the Open Government Act to the Legislature," said the 40-year-old Sablan.

In a separate statement yesterday, Sablan said Staffler is a fresh face in politics who brings a positive energy and collaborative spirit to her work in the Legislature.

Staffler (D-Saipan), 42, said she is deeply humbled and honored to accept the Democratic Party's endorsement to stand as lieutenant governor with Sablan in the 2022 election.

"I am honored to be part of the first female tandem to run for the top leadership positions in our Commonwealth," said Staffler in a statement.

A daughter of Tinian, Staffler now represents Saipan's Precinct 5 in the House of Representatives after she was elected in 2020. An educator by profession with a master's degree in educational leadership, she currently chairs the House's Education Committee.

At the moment, three teams will be vying for the CNMI topmost post in the November general election: The Sablan-Staffler tandem will be running against re-electionist Gov. Ralph DLG Torres who has Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo taken by Glen Hunter in September 2012, Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), left who was at the time a KSPN reporter, is shown here reporting on group of people, including Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler, who were protesting public corruption during an impeachment rally against then-governor Benigno R. Fitial. Sablan is now the Democratic Party's candidate for governor in the coming November general election, while Staffler, who is now a member of the House of Representatives representing Precinct 5, will be Sablan's running mate as lieutenant governor.

under the Republican Party, and the independent tandem of Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

Sablan said that Staffler has already built a reputation as a listener and a "bridge builder," often reaching across party lines to foster relationships and push legislation.

"Although she is relatively new in politics, Leila is a seasoned public servant and community leader," she said.

The lawmaker said that, as a beloved teacher, counselor, and administrator, Staffler has taught and mentored thousands of Marianas youth in her 20-year career in public education.

"She has long been, and continue to be, a passionate advo-

cate for people with disabilities, and a champion for good governance and a safer, healthier community," Sablan said.

"Leila also brings many wonderful qualities to the team: she is honest, humble, intelligent, capable, and kind. She genuinely cares about people, and the well-being of the community," she said.

Sablan said her running mate understands the importance of education and health to the Commonwealth's long-term development, and that all children deserve opportunities to thrive.

Sablan said Staffler is committed to fairness and transparency in government.

"Leila will be a terrific lieutenant governor, and I am proud and honored to be run-

ning with her on the Democratic ticket for 2022," she said.

Sablan noted that the decision to select Staffler was made following an extensive search process that included vetting and interviews of nominees by an advisory search committee.

Sablan also personally met with potential running mates and consulted with members of the party, supporters, and other stakeholders.

She said that after a roundtable discussion, party members at the meeting voted by acclamation to endorse Staffler for lieutenant governor.

Sablan is the first woman to run for CNMI governor.

Staffler said she has known and worked with Sablan in different civic and community outreach initiatives over the past 15 years and she has consistently shared her vision of what good governance could be like in the Marianas, with the right leadership and direction: open and honest government, accountable leaders, sound and stable policies, and empowered citizens.

"These are principles that I also value, and Tina and I pledge to bring these principles to the highest seats in our CNMI government," Staffler said.

She said public trust and confidence in government can only be earned through trans-

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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From Page 1

identified via contact tracing, 28 via community testing, and four via travel testing.

All affected individuals have been isolated and are actively monitored. The vaccination statuses of the 104 new cases are pending verification.

Also, according to the CHCC new release, as of Jan. 19, 2022, seven individuals are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, four of them unvaccinated. All three others are vaccinated.

In an update last night, CHCC said that, as of Jan. 20, 2022, there were seven individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: three unvaccinated, three vaccinated, and one partially vaccinated. One of the seven patients is on a ventilator.

So far, of the total number of cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of Jan. 19, 2022, there have already been 3,648 recoveries, 449 active cases, and 21 COVID-19-related deaths.

On the vaccination front, a total of 184 COVID-19 vaccines were administered on Jan. 20, 2022, resulting in 98.3% of the CNMI's eligible population being fully vaccinated.

A total of 503 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Jan. 19, 2022: 419 community-based testing; 48 at the COV-19 Community Center (referrals only); 11 at the Tinian Health Center; and 25 at the Rota Health Center.

The CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

To register for community-based testing, visit <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. No code is required to register. If there are no dates showing, it means all spots have been filled. More dates will be announced. (*Saipan Tribune*)

One of two who stole batteries and tried to sell them back to owner gets one year in prison

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Superior Court sentenced a man to a one-year imprisonment for taking part in a crime where he and another man tried to resell batteries they stole to the company they stole the items from in the first place.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Shaun D. Reyes, 30, to one year in prison after he pleaded guilty to theft for trying to sell excavator batteries that he, and co-defendant Dino Ayuyu Mettao, had stolen back to the original owner of the batteries.

In this case, the court suspended 245 days of Reyes' sentence, which means he must serve the first 120 days, or four months, day for day without possibility of parole or early released. He was also sentenced to 120 days, with credit for time served of 24 days, in another criminal case involving theft.

In criminal case 21-0172, the case involving the stolen batteries, Reyes was sentenced to the full maximum of one year imprisonment with the first 120 days, to be served day for day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program, with 24 days credit for time served.

The remaining sentence is suspended and may be imposed in whole or in part for any violation of law or Office

of the Adult Probation rules.

In a previous theft case that dates back to 2016 (criminal case 16-0129), Reyes was sentenced to serve 120 days of his suspended sentence, without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program, with 24 days credit for time served.

This sentence will run concurrently with his sentence in criminal case 21-0172. In total, Reyes' remaining suspended sentence shall be 610 days.

Following his release from prison, Reyes will be placed under supervised probation for a period of three years, which shall run concurrently with his probation in criminal case 21-0172.

In addition, Reyes must cooperate with the Office of the Attorney General and testify against his co-defendant, Mettao, at any hearing or court proceeding, including testifying at trial, if necessary.

Reyes must also pay a fine of \$100, court cost of \$25, and probation fee of \$120 per year before the expiration of his probationary period.

This is in addition to any residual fees imposed in Criminal Case No. 16-0129 D. The fines may be converted to community work service.

The defendant was also ordered to perform 80 hours of community work service at a rate of eight hours per month before the end of his probation. The community work service may be converted to fines.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE INMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCES TORRES-SALAS
DIRECTOR OF OPM

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, P.S.

UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 31, 2022 from 9:00am to 12:30pm at Aqua Resort-Taga Room.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 31, 2022
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2021
- V. Review & Adoption of Special Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2021
- VI. Action Items
 - a. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to FY 2021 DD Basic Grant
 - b. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to FY 2021 Assistive Technology Grant
 - c. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed FY 2022 DD Basic Grant
 - d. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed FY 2022 Assistive Technology Grant
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Saipan First Responder Training Update
 - b. Meet Your Policymaker Event Update
 - c. 2021 NDEAM Activities Update
 - d. CNMI-UCEDD Community Needs Assessment Update
 - e. Disability Network/Tri-Agency Logo
 - f. Disability Network Partners Logo
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Disability Network Partners MOU
 - b. March 2022 DDEAM
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA
EVANGELISTA, LLC
D' Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,	Civil Action No. 20-0015
Plaintiff, -v-	NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY
PATRICIA MUÑA ALDAN and JUAN DELEON GUERRERO ALDAN, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the judgment dated September 27, 2021, made and entered in the above entitled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff from Defendants, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 16th day of February, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit: **Lot 010 K 401**.

Lot 010 K 401, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded on August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2912 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property, provided it is acceptable as the minimum starting bid to the Bank of Saipan. Bids made in advance must be in writing and addressed to Michael N. Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 504340 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within five days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within five days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Saipan.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Saipan reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA
EVANGELISTA, LLC.

/s/ Michael N. Evangelista
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq.
(Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

WIN PACIFIC CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Win Pacific Corporation

THE POSITION: Network and Computer Systems Administrator

JOB DESCRIPTION: Determine organization's system needs and install network hardware and software; Make needed upgrades and repairs to networks and ensure that systems are operating correctly; maintain network or system performance; Add users to a network, and assign and update security permissions on the network; Train users in the proper use of hardware and software; Interpret and solve problems when a user or an automated monitoring system alerts them that a problem exists; Ensure that email and data storage networks work properly; and make sure that employees' work stations are working properly and stay connected to the central computer network.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least sixty (60) months of relevant work experience as a Computer Systems Administrator or Information Technology Network Systems/Hardware Administrator

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: With at least sixty (60) months of progressively responsible experience in the selection, installation, support, and usage of network and communications system hardware and software; Flexibility to work outside normal business hours; and Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

JOB SITE: Tower Palace, Gualo Rai Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive professional resume, with supporting credentials, and application letter to:

OSWIN ROY SUYAPTO
President and General Manager
WIN PACIFIC CORPORATION

Office Address: Tower Palace, Gualo Rai Village
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503324, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address(es): darwing@win-pacific.com and/or oswins@win-pacific.com

Telephone Number(s): Tel. 1(510) 390-6872 and/or (670)783-0532

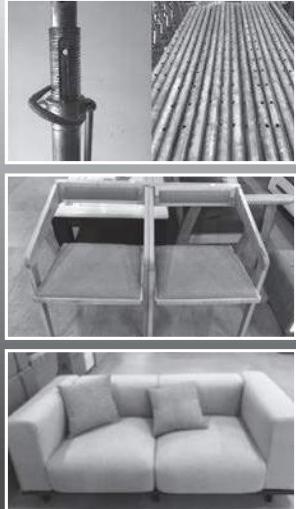
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Saipan son is promoted to colonel in US Army Reserve



Col. Alejandro "Alex" Buniag Jr. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Col. Alejandro "Alex" Buniag Jr. gets his eagle ranks pinned on by U.S. Air Force retiree and father-in-law Jim Moore during a promotion ceremony on Jan. 13 at the Air War College, which is headquartered at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

lege, which is headquartered at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

Col. Johnathan Kupka presided over the promotion ceremony. Buniag's father-in-law, Jim Moore, a U.S. Air Force retiree, pinned on his eagle ranks. Buniag said he is currently on active duty to complete a master's degree from the Air War College. Upon completion, he will return to Guam to resume his civilian profession.

Buniag said in an email interview that he was promoted on Jan. 13 in a ceremony that took place at the Air War Col-

lege, which is headquartered at the Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.

Col. Johnathan Kupka presided over the promotion ceremony. Buniag's father-in-law, Jim Moore, a U.S. Air Force retiree, pinned on his eagle ranks.

Buniag said he is currently on active duty to complete a master's degree from the Air War College. Upon completion in May, he will be returning to Guam with a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies and resume his civil-

ian profession.

Buniag said he is a full-time employee of Andersen Elementary School, which is located at the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. At the school, Buniag is an educational technologist.

Buniag thanked God and his family: his parents Alejandro Buniag Sr. and Angeliate Buniag "for always pushing me toward success," and his wife, Amanda Moore Buniag, and their children "for all their sacrifices while I answer the call to duty and for always

supporting my career."

Buniag also thanked the leaders and noncommissioned officers who provided "great mentorship" to him and his civilian employer for their "continued support."

When asked what the promotion means to him, he said it reflects how the Army "has seen my leadership potential for greater responsibility." Buniag added that he now moves into the category of strategic leadership, and is grateful for the opportunity to attend Resident Senior Service College at the Air War College. "All my tacti-

cal and operational experience will now be placed on the back burner, with strategic thinking at the forefront," he added.

Buniag told *Saipan Tribune* that he has 22 years of service to the U.S. and is currently assigned as the Chief of Strategic Communications with the 9th Mission Support Command of the U.S. Army Reserve. This command has areas of responsibility in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, American Samoa, Japan, and South Korea.

Buniag was born and raised on Saipan, growing up in Chalan Piao. He graduated from Grace Christian Academy in 1997.

CPA, airlines to meet on new way of assessing airport usage fee

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is set to meet with all airlines servicing the CNMI to answer questions about the CPA's new method of assessing airport usage fees.

According to CPA board chair Kimberly King-Hinds, CPA sent out the fiscal year 2022 rate book to all airlines with King-Hinds an invitation to the

meeting on Friday. During this meeting, CPA will open the floor for questions regarding CPA's new methodology.

"The meeting will be held to provide information and answer questions on the new methodology. So this is a part of the ongoing consultation process," she said.

Shawn Christian, Star

Marianas Air president, said this is a step in the right direction, in regards to the ongoing dispute between CPA and the airlines.

"Our understanding is that CPA doesn't intend to enforce

several provisions of the law, which they indicate will then bring the new charges into a methodology that meets federal regulations. We haven't seen anything addressed to us explaining

that and we're a bit unclear as to how an agency can selectively choose which laws it intends to enforce, but if the charges are compliant with federal regulations, then we're at least moving in a good direction," he said.

There has been no resolution yet to the dispute between CPA and SMA.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200035

SUBMISSION DATE: February 14, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 02, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 20, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director
MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

The Sound of Music: The show must go on...safely

Despite setbacks and delays, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is all set to present *The Sound of Music* on Jan. 26 and 28 after taking additional safety and health precautions.

"We are committed to the health and safety of our students and our community," said Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Northern Marianas College president and director of the show. "Guided by public health officials and the best science available, we are doing what we can to protect everyone."

To prepare for the show, the Theatre Club implemented additional safety precautions to help prevent and protect against the spread of COVID-19. Per school policy, all cast and crew members were required to provide the school office with proof of vaccination. The club has also secured face shields for all cast members so that they may safely sing and recite lines without the impediment of a face mask. In addition, to ensure adequate air ventilation in a setting that helps prevent the spread of the airborne coronavirus, all large-group rehearsals were relocated to the school's cafeteria. The club also announced that it will continue to follow and enforce COVID-19 mitigation protocols, including but not limited to, temperature checks, logging for contact tracing purposes, physical distancing, and face masks/shields.

Earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars, *The Sound of Music* was the final collaboration between the theatrical powerhouse duo, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The story is based on

the memoir of Maria Augusta Trapp and follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

The Sound of Music is the concluding event of the Theatre Club's celebration of its 25th anniversary. Launched in 1996, the MCS Theatre Club began celebrating last year, commemorating over 50 theatrical and cinematic productions. The club started the celebration in February with the sold-out premiere of the latest entry in its award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, the *Stories of Visitacion, Henry, and Dave* at American Memorial Park. The club continued the celebration in April with William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and in May with the feature film *Zero2Hero*, a follow-up to 2011's cult hit, *Zero to Hero*. The film was also recently released for free on the school's YouTube channel.

The Sound of Music, with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, as suggested by *The Trapp Family Singers* by Maria Augusta Trapp, is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. www.concordtheatricals.com.

The Sound of Music will be presented at Saipan World Resort on Jan. 26 and 28, with doors opening at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$25 for front row

premium seats, \$10 for preferred seating, and \$5 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the school's Business Office. To comply with COVID-19 Mitigation Guidelines, tickets are limited and are available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

The production is made possible by support from the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the CNMI Council for Arts and Culture with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



Neia Dolana Duenas Tagabuel, front, who plays the role of Gretl von Trapp in the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *The Sound of Music*, rehearses with fellow cast member in the school's cafeteria, which provides better air ventilation in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The school has taken such precautionary measures to keep students and the community safe and healthy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

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Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph D.L. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold L. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission hereby gives notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Guita Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. PRELIMINARIES:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes: December 29, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. REPORTS:**
 - A. Report by the Acting Chairman
 - B. Report by the Executive Director
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNI), LLC ("IPI") – Status Updates:
 - 1. IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
 - 2. Tower Cranes 1, 5 and 6 at IPI
 - 3. Employee Payroll
 - 4. Unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
 - 5. IPI's FINAL Annual Audit Report (for the year ended December 31, 2020)
 - 6. 2020 & 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fees. Due Aug 12th each year
 - 7. 2020 & 2021 Annual Casino Regulatory Fees. Due Oct 1st each year
 - B. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
- V. OLD BUSINESS: None.**
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Introduction to Cryptocurrency by Mr. Ian Morrel, IT Manager
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - A. Consult with Legal Counsel
 - B. Report by the CCC Divisions
 - C. CCC Personnel Matters
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Rafael S. Demapan
Acting Chairman



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-010

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-010, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Sarker

Dr. Zaidul Islam Sarker, lead food scientist and program leader at the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, recently served as the keynote speaker for the 3rd International Conference on Traditional Medicine in Modern Era for Cure on Jan. 7-8, 2022, in India and presented information from his research regarding modified "green" method of supercritical fluid extraction.

Supercritical fluid is used for many purposes, ranging from the extraction of fragrances from flowers, to applications in food science and functional food ingredients, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, polymers, powders, bio- and functional materials, nano-systems, natural products, biotechnology, and others.

After seven years of research, Sarker has developed and modified an environmentally-friendly method of supercritical extraction. This method developed by Sarker reduces processing time, saves costs, and is organic solvent-free. The process results in

high quality, residue-free and pure products.

"I found that the conventional methods have a lot of limitations such as being time-consuming, expensive, and that these methods need harmful and health hazardous organic solvents like acetone, hexane, methanol, which can cause cancer and other diseases," Sarker said. "The solvents used in these methods are health hazardous, not safe, and not environmentally friendly, and that was one of the reasons that inspired me to develop a greener method of supercritical fluid extraction."

Sarker recently submitted research grant proposals that will enable him to conduct similar research on tropical/medicinal plants that grow in the CNMI in his capacity as lead food scientist and program leader at NMC CREEs.

"I look forward to providing further research and practical applications in food science to the CNMI community," Sarker said.

Patricia Coleman, interim dean for NMC CREEs, said

that there is a "rich legacy" of using the cultural knowledge the community has of native plants as *amot* or *safey* and for healing.

"We look forward to seeing how we can use this existing knowledge and to create new knowledge to contribute to the study of plant nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and to enhance the health of our communities," Coleman said.

According to a study on medicinal plants and traditional knowledge in the NMI conducted in 2008, more than 70 potential plants have been found in the CNMI for their medicinal value and traditional usage. These include Ladda (Noni) (*Morinda citrifolia*), Korason galak (*Asplenium nidus*), Kahla (*Phytomyzodes scolopendria*), Potpopot (*Peperomia mariannensis*), Akangan (*Canavalia megalaantha*), Gssoso (*Colubrina asiatica*), Ahgao (*Premna obtusifolia*), Gaogao (*Erythrina variegata*) and Tumaga (*Cassia occidentalis*), among several others.

For more information about programs offered by NMC CREEs or to reach Sarker, call 237-6840, email crees@marianas.edu, or visit marians.edu. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-22-005

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked "CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMC's Sarker presents cutting-edge research at international conference

Dr. Zaidul Islam Sarker, lead food scientist and program leader at the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, recently served as the keynote speaker for the 3rd International Conference on Traditional Medicine in Modern Era for Cure on Jan. 7-8, 2022, in India and presented information from his research regarding modified "green" method of supercritical fluid extraction.

Supercritical fluid is used for many purposes, ranging from the extraction of fragrances from flowers, to applications in food science and functional food ingredients, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, polymers, powders, bio- and functional materials, nano-systems, natural products, biotechnology, and others.

After seven years of research, Sarker has developed and modified an environmentally-friendly method of supercritical extraction. This method developed by Sarker reduces processing time, saves costs, and is organic solvent-free. The process results in

high quality, residue-free and pure products.

"I found that the conventional methods have a lot of limitations such as being time-consuming, expensive, and that these methods need harmful and health hazardous organic solvents like acetone, hexane, methanol, which can cause cancer and other diseases," Sarker said. "The solvents used in these methods are health hazardous, not safe, and not environmentally friendly, and that was one of the reasons that inspired me to develop a greener method of supercritical fluid extraction."

Sarker recently submitted research grant proposals that will enable him to conduct similar research on tropical/medicinal plants that grow in the CNMI in his capacity as lead food scientist and program leader at NMC CREEs.

"I look forward to providing further research and practical applications in food science to the CNMI community," Sarker said.

Patricia Coleman, interim dean for NMC CREEs, said



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-013

Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of the installation of sewer gravity mains, manholes, sewer laterals and connections to the new sewer system, connection to the existing sewer on Isa Drive, concrete encasement of new sewer mains, utility crossings, restoration of site pavement, temporary soil erosion control, temporary traffic control, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer and water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-013, Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 18, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NMTech to do outreaches on Tinian and Rota

Beginning next week, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be visiting Tinian and Rota to meet with several officials, and students who are taking culinary arts classes through their respec-

tive island's high schools.

NMTech marketing and outreach coordinator Benjamin Babauta said Wednesday that NMTech's leadership will be meeting with each of the islands' mayors, the resi-

Huang is named to Lehigh U's Dean's List

BETHLEHEM, PA—Dean's List status has been granted to Surui Huang from Saipan in the fall 2021 semester.

This honor is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 hours of regularly graded courses. (**PR**)

dent directors of the Department of Commerce on Tinian and Rota, the Northern Marianas College's Tinian and

Rota campuses, and culinary arts students who are taking classes at Tinian Jr./Sr. High School on Tinian and Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota.

According to Babauta, NMTech will be visiting Tinian on Jan. 24 to Jan. 25 and will be holding a town hall meeting at TJSHS on Jan. 24 at 6:30pm.

NMTech will be visiting Rota on Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 and will be holding a town hall meeting at the Sinapalo Youth Center on Jan. 31 at 6:30pm. (**Joshua Santos**)

Rota, Tinian responses sought for healthcare access survey

If you are aged 18 or older and living on Rota or Tinian, the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau is seeking respondents for a "CNMI Healthcare Access Survey" on Rota and Tinian to gather data pertaining to barriers to healthcare access on both islands.

The surveys will close on Feb. 1, 2022. For more information, the bureau asks that

you call 670-236-8731.

The link to the survey can be found at: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cjwFMcW_Qkd_P_B_0_U_T-g972YSCAKXxoAHo6eiDjvg51UMEJaUTJ-FRkxJWjVMMIU1VTZKVzFQQIVTMi4u&fbclid=IwAR1T0TzpwIm5WtKQ6

dt-iZ8NeMG12NrAqE-rXv-sOmz82F4Bzx0VR-cjgeW8

Along with asking for demographic information, the survey asks if you have received an annual checkup, how important you think it is to receive an annual checkup, and what are the biggest barriers you see to getting an annual doctor visit.

In Jan. 11 posts to the "CHCC

Public Health Programs" Facebook page, it said the bureau is seeking to collect survey responses from at least 10% of the two islands' respective adult populations. For Rota, this is about 150 respondents; this number is 180 for Tinian.

CHCC public information officer Guillermo Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there have been four respondents on Rota and 69 on Tinian thus far. (**Joshua Santos**)

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS TINIAN SEAPORT BUILDING, TINIAN

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Tinian Seaport Building, Tinian, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAIC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$50.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TERMINALS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters on the windows and doors along the front side of the arrival and departure terminals, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAIC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT OF SAIPAN SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP PAVING & DRAINAGE
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Port of Saipan South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage, Project No. CPA-SS-001-19.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at cpa.receptionist@ptcicom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, February 4, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 12, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
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E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTCICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "Car Rental Concession"
CPA-RFP-007-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of approximately two years (contract to end on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-007-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAIC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
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Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport "Car Rental Concessions"
CPA-RFP-008-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRR-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of about two years (contract ends on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-008-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAIC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

PORT OF SAIPAN CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the CPA Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

These services are being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at cpa.receptionist@ptcicom.com.

Questions or inquiries regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email at wprater@cnmports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, January 14, 2022**.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/S/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: December 28, 2021

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Now that we've honored King, let's honor Mahalia Jackson, his greatest 'editor'

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it would have been fitting to honor Mahalia Jackson, too. The legendary gospel singer is considered the greatest of her time, but she also proved to be King's most crucial editor, playing a significant role in the delivery of his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream," on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963.

As someone in his inner circle, Jackson was near King when he began to speak that day to a sea of people on the mall.

Here's the thing: King did not include "I have a dream," his most powerful imagery, in the original speech.

But Jackson sure did. In fact, Jackson helped create King's oft-quoted speech but never got much credit for it—although she was deeply committed to the Civil Rights Movement.

If you watch some video clips of the momentous day, 11 minutes into the 16-minute speech, you will hear MLK speaking, and then you hear a female voice nearby, imploring him: "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin!"

It was Jackson sitting on the podium stage to the left of MLK, prodding him to the emotional passages she recognized as special. The story goes that the night before, and on other occasions, she had heard MLK talk about his "dream."

As he spoke that day, playing the role of editor, Jackson must have thought he was burying powerful words that would immortalize his cause.

Although it was among his notes at the podium, Clarence B Jones, King's speechwriter who heard Jackson shout out, has said that the "dream" section was not necessarily intended to be part of the speech. As King hears Jackson, Jones says King looks over at her, pauses, shuffles his notes and abandons the prepared speech. He begins again:

"And so, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream ..."

Jones added that from the moment Jackson prodded him, everything that King says is "extemporaneous and spontaneous."

Jackson had redirected King's speech into history. His words and the powerful way he uttered them almost 60 years ago still make eyes fill with tears.

Jackson's impeccable on-the-spot editing helped turn King into a national hero. Her ignored contribution is a shame but not unheard of for women in the Civil Rights Movement.

Good thing King respected Jackson enough to upend his speech at her suggestion.

King got all due acknowledgment across the nation on Monday. Today, we're giving Mahalia Jackson her overdue recognition.



When an asymptomatic, COVID-positive doctor is still treating patients, we're losing a war

I've been dodging COVID since March 2020. Back then, I would have been appalled at having asymptomatic doctors and nurses infected with COVID treating patients, which state officials now say is permissible.

Now I see this as a necessity.

We're losing this war.

Omicron is surging in huge numbers, a wave bred in the unvaccinated, the uneducated and the uncaring. People are flooding our hospitals during the worst time of the year for ERs: winter, when flu and other respiratory diseases spike.

It's a rock and a hard place numbers game as omicron knocks health care workers out by the thousands—at a time when staffing is already a big problem. Combined with burnout, retirement and higher paying "travel" jobs to COVID hot spots, this wave has put us in a perfect storm.

Lately, we are seeing patients as if practicing for a disaster that has already arrived. In my hospital and so many others, sick patients clog the ER because there is nowhere to put them. The ER overflows into the waiting room and onto the street in tents. Separation of COVID and non-COVID patients breaks down.

If you order labs and there is no nurse to draw them, or send a patient to the CT scanner but have no bed to put them in, what happens? The patient leaves before the scan is read. Sometimes they cannot be found and the news is bad.

The only thing worse is the patient who never comes in because the place is overwhelmed.

My emergency department, and those across California and the country, must stay open and staffed, not just for COVID patients but to treat people suffering from heart attacks, strokes, gunshot wounds, overdoses, suicide attempts and severe injuries.

For a COVID-positive patient, having a team of positive, asymptomatic caregivers is far better than being untreated. This holds true for all critical patients, who, COVID aside, will almost certainly die without treatment if they stay away due to overcrowding and lack of staff.

Personal protective equipment works both ways, protecting me and my patients. There's no reason to think that properly used protective gear is riskier than sitting in ER waiting rooms for 12 hours. It's clearly less risky than playing on a professional sports team.

The Supreme Court decided that most workplace vaccination mandates threaten liberty more than the current pandemic. And it is clear that a large portion of our society refuses to end the COVID war quickly, as they did with previous preventable diseases.

So, here we are, stuck in this crap for the duration until slowly, painfully we get to herd immunity the hard way.

For almost two years we've lived under enemy occupation. And the vaccinated will need to continue to adjust, again and again and again, no matter how sick we are of this siege.

By MARK MOROCCO

Los Angeles Times

Mark Morocco is a Los Angeles physician and professor of emergency medicine.



It will likely take a few years for the current stalemate to end; for the pandemic to become endemic. During that time some will be forced to do unimaginable things. Like being a health care worker when you are COVID-positive but "not sick," coming to work when common sense says stay home.

I'm shocked that I might end up with COVID but still treat an immunocompromised patient, knowing that there is a risk—however small—that I could harm them.

I could refuse to do it, cite the Hippocratic Oath and not go in.

But I won't, and I hope my colleagues will make the same choice if asymptomatic and COVID-positive. This is an all-hands-on-deck moment. Again.

It is a hard choice. It goes against most everything I've been taught.

One mentor—maybe the best doctor I've ever learned from—told me that a simple question could cut through this most complicated knot: What is the right thing to do for this patient, right now?

It is impossible for me to imagine this patient without a doctor or nurse to provide comfort and care; without a respiratory therapist to dial up oxygen when every breath is a fight.

What is right for the heart attack, stroke or gunshot patient? I'm not COVID-positive (yet), but if I am and I feel fine, I should be where I can help them. Even if it feels wrong, it is right at this moment, for me.

Don't want to get treated by a COVID-positive health care worker?

Well, if you're unvaccinated, good luck—if you get omicron, you are risking death (the exact odds of this remain unknown) and you are 10 times more likely to need a hospital bed. Those numbers go to almost zero with the jabs.

And if you're experiencing symptoms of other urgent health issues such as heart attack or stroke, seek treatment despite your fear.

Because this is where we are in the fight. Being treated by a careful, double-masked and gowned doctor or nurse who is COVID-positive but symptom-free makes more sense than suffering the consequences of having no experts where the sick people are.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

It takes a village to provide a better world

Last Friday, the faculty and staff from the Northern Marianas College gathered together to revitalize an important area around the college. Despite how busy our team has been preparing for the start of the spring 2022 semester, they still made time for this important project. The camaraderie they developed as a result of this shared project is matched by the pride of ownership they feel in helping beautify our community.

For the NMC tribe, it's all about the resilience and strength they have demonstrated time and time again in the face of natural disasters, economic uncertainty, and the current pandemic. Without fail, no matter how turbulent the waters have been, NMC's *proa* sails ahead. Consistent with the college's renewed focus on stewardship, the Marianas Village Pride Campaign is a great example of how we can all become better stewards of our environment. If it takes a village to raise a child, then it will take all our villages to give future children a better world.

The GCEA theme "Together, We Can!" echoes what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." In our case here in the Northern Marianas, we may have all come from different shores,

but we sail ahead in the same *proa* now.

NMC has been working endlessly to adjust to how each generation works and how we accommodate our students so they can be academically successful. To do that, we made sure that our facilities master plan continues ahead. Leveraging tens of millions of dollars in grant funding, we are on track to build at least five new buildings in the coming years. To build momentum for the whole facilities plan, we remain committed to breaking ground on the first building in the plan, the student center, by this summer.

Overall, the college is finalizing a new strategic master plan that will focus on taking care of our people, taking care of our resources, and taking care of our community. Much of this is embodied in a renewed effort to foster a spirit of stewardship.

Living on such small islands, it is tempting to feel helpless and hopeless against the titanic forces of globalization and the devastating effects of climate change. However, after each disaster and calamity, we don't respond with violence and unrest. Instead, we come together as a community to help each other recover and build back stronger. In other words, we are not just victims; we are agents of change. We have a lot to teach our global community about how to take care of our environment and how to take

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By DR. GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, commonly known as "Dr. G", is the president of the Northern Marianas College. Dr. G has spent more than two decades in education serving and leading students in various capacities to improve the quality of life for all students.

care of each other.

That, to me, is the core of stewardship. It's also the key to the college's next strategic master plan as we all become better stewards of our Commonwealth and our planet. As I have been saying for quite some time, as we sail ahead with a focus on learning, let us lift the tide for everyone.

I am incredibly honored to serve alongside such committed public servants.

With that, stay safe, stay calm, and sail on!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmiecconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Young people are winning elections. Now what?

Millennials are sweeping into public office: From 2018 to 2020, the United States saw a 266 percent increase in young people running for Congress. In 2021, young people made history with candidates like Nadarius Clark, the youngest Democrat elected to the legislature in Virginia history, and 36-year-old Brandon Umbo, a Republican elected to the New Jersey General Assembly.

It's clear from this swell of young people stepping into public service that we are not only ready to shift the political status quo, but we see ourselves as agents of change to do just that. However, to succeed, there's one thing this generation of elected leaders is missing: professional development.

Kaplan Solutions attributes major benefits to professional development, including increased retention, confidence and credibility, easier succession planning, re-energized staff, and increased efficiency.

A recent Gallup report found that 59 percent of millennials say opportunities to learn and grow are extremely important to them when applying for a job. That's more than any other generation, and legislators are no exception. Freshman members of the House of Representatives are asking for resources that can help them navigate the modern challenges they face. Instead, as Rep. Ilhan Omar shared, "When people are giving you advice, it's from decades ago as a freshman."

It's not always a question of will. In some cases, more senior legislators simply lack the skills that new legislators desperately need to learn. As Congress has become increasingly hyper-polarized, the most visible policymakers are not al-

ways the best role models for young leaders. That puts new lawmakers in a tough position: They can either learn bad behaviors from the colleagues they see around them, or they can try to learn how to be an effective policymaker without any support or resources to do so.

In a hearing held by the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, freshmen asked for more robust onboarding and professional development in areas like promoting civility and respect, as well as in leadership training.

The committee's vice chair, Rep. Will Timmons, said in a joint statement with fellow committee member Mary Gay Scanlon, "We came to Congress with different backgrounds but with a similar goal, and that's to solve problems for the American people. By improving the support, resources, and tools available to new members of Congress, we can help the next generation of leaders get to work as soon as they set foot in our nation's capital."

This desire for professional development doesn't stop with young legislators. Congressional staffers reported similar needs when it comes to investing in their career growth and development. Yet instead of receiving the support they require, these aides—the majority of whom are millennials—are burning out at their jobs and quitting in just 3.1 years.

The outcome of providing more professional development is clear: Our young elected officials and their teams want training to craft and enact good policies for their constituents. The more equipped our leaders are, the more equipped we are to tackle issues important for the future.

By LAYLA ZAIDANE

The Fulcrum

Layla Zaidane is the president and CEO of Millennial Action Project.



And the good news is, even though millennials may feel under-equipped for the positions they are taking on today, the tide seems to be turning when it comes to investing in the future. Millennial-run congressional offices have begun advocating for improving pay and benefits, along with securing up-to-date technology, equipment and platforms for their staff.

Millennials are now the largest generation in America, making up the majority of the American workforce, military, consumers and more. They are diving into leadership positions such as CEOs, managers, investors and even members of Congress. As millennials take the reins, our success will ripple across the organizations, industries and institutions that we lead.

It's in everyone's best interest to make sure that the next generation of leaders has the tools, training and skills to do their jobs well. Young people have taken the first step toward changing our politics for the better. Now we need to make sure they have the resources available to get the job done.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just wondering...

Been making calls as a concerned citizen and asking questions. When you work infection and death numbers for the size of CNMI's population vs the rest of the United States and around the world it certainly seems that things here are far from being under control.

Why hasn't the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. COVID-19 dashboard numbers been updated in two weeks?

Why is there a complete lack of geographic representation of cases/infection clusters so people can adjust their behaviors (and avoid hotspots)?

Who gave the political/administrative order for the CNMI to throw up its hands, surrender, and adopt the defeatist and non-science based "learn to live with the virus" nonsense that is a part of MAGA and populist nationalism playbooks?

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña seems like a decent person who is trying but she isn't an elected official, an infectious disease specialist, a scientist, or a doctor. Why is she the CNMI's face of COVID control when all she does now is

rest upon positive platitudes and false responses that the CNMI's COVID response and vaccination rate is "world class" when that only applies to the uptake of two shots by the population while three jabs are now the accepted minimum? Great, if not outstanding, the previous work at getting two shots into arms but I know of almost no one here other than myself who has received the third shot. What is the rate of uptake of third inoculations? Why isn't that rate reported?

Antigen tests often don't detect the Omicron SAR-CoV-2 variant. The hospital here won't give people a PCR test unless they have a positive antigen test. This is ridiculous. Whose bright idea was this?

There are drive-up PCR tests available now and then. That's good. Why no on-demand, walk-up PCR tests in major villages and public markets/events for people who don't have cars? Would seem to be some serious disregard for those with lower incomes and those who choose not to have cars (for environmental, sustainability, and financial reasons).

Allowing new arrivals to circulate with the general population after only one test is absurd. Without doubt, new arrivals are spreading the omicron variant far and wide throughout

Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Lastly, why is no one talking about ventilation and airflow here? From what I can tell, infections are happening at home, with family and in public businesses/venues—often all have terrible ventilation and little exchange of fresh air. I'm not blaming anyone as part of this is a function of where we live, temperatures, humidity, closed/sealed buildings, and air conditioner use. Not having doors and windows open is what is causing most of the transmission to occur. Why isn't the CNMI government and the CHCC conducting education and outreach about this? Respiratory viruses spread via the air and people get infected because they share air with those who are infected. Masks are vital protection but if the air in the grocery store is laden with omicron, even a legit N95 mask won't protect you over time. You don't have to be an infectious disease specialist to figure this out. I'll be blunt, locals are dead and suffering because of ignorance and inattention to this issue, more will die and get sick because of it.

Mark Farmer

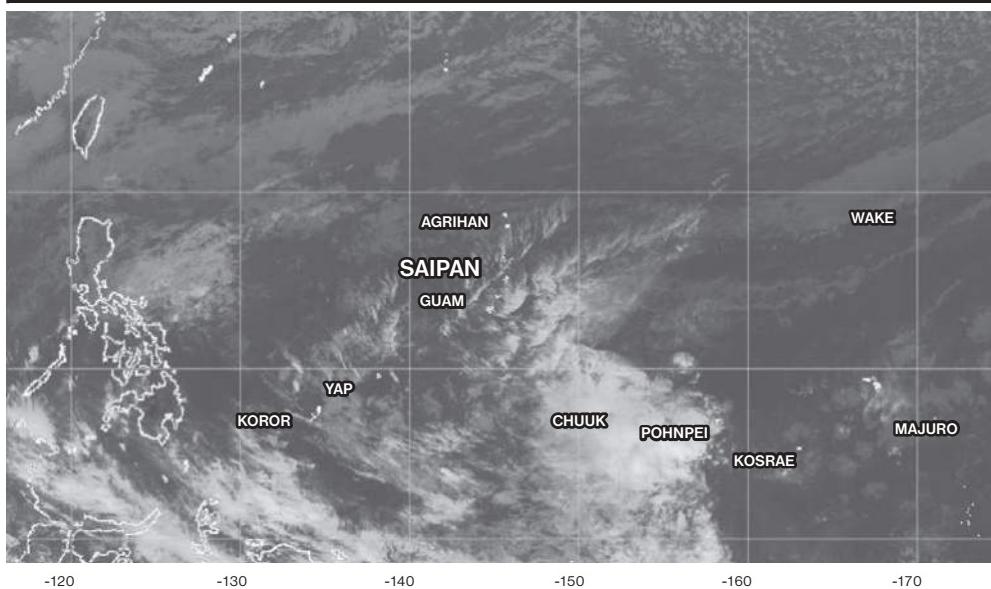
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 25 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s.
85°	76°	86°	75°	85°
76°	85°	76°	86°	78°
85°	76°	86°	75°	85°
85°	76°	86°	76°	85°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The shear line that has been dominating our area has gradually been weakening. It only extends eastward to about 167E now. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed primarily of east trade-wind swell. A north swell of 3 to 4 feet, shown on the wave model guidance, will add 1 foot to that in the open ocean.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>

Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 InfoLine at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.



Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	9 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Chuuk	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27°F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:47 AM	18:09 PM
Saturday	06:47 AM	18:09 PM
Sunday	06:47 AM	18:10 PM
Monday	06:47 AM	18:10 PM
Tuesday	06:46 AM	18:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	09:05 PM	20:59PM
Saturday	-	09:44 PM	21:50 PM
Sunday	-	10:22 PM	22:41 PM
Monday	-	11:00 AM	23:33 PM
Tuesday	-	11:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	23 / 16 °F
Beijing	Snow Showers	0 / -4 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 17°F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 20 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	7 / -2 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	22 / 10 °F
Manila	Rain	28 / 23°F
Melbourne	Sunny	31 / 17 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	25 / 20 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	5 / -12 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	6 / 1 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	6 / 0 °F
Busan	Sunny	9 / 2 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	13 / 0 °F
Salem	Cloudy	6 / 3 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	17 / 11 °F
Seoul	Sunny	3 / -9 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	7 / 1 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	3 / -10 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET	
03:44 AM	Low Tide
10:46 AM	High Tide
4:22 PM	Low Tide
9:06 PM	High Tide

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN	
UA117 7:20am		UA116 5:30am	
UA117 9:50am		UA174 8:00am	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-GUAM	
PR 111 6:30am		PR110 10:15pm	
UA183 8:00pm		UA184 10:40pm	
		UA184 10:55pm	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
UA117/183 7:20am		UA184/174 10:40pm	
UA117/183 9:50am		UA184/174 10:40pm	
		UA184/174 10:55pm	



DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Kagman Elementary School on Saipan wins the award for Most Festive School in the Marianas Village Pride Christmas Decorating Contest of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. Its prize is sports equipment valued at \$1,000.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



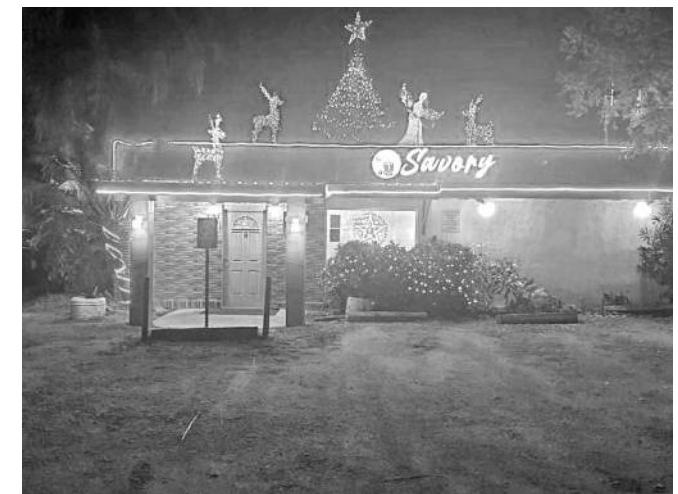
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian resident Laila Macaranas was recognized with the Most Festive Home award in the Marianas Village Pride Christmas Decorating Contest of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. She won hardware store credit valued at \$1,000.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Mayor's Office in the village of San Jose on Tinian won the Most Festive Village plum in the Marianas Village Pride Christmas Decorating Contest of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. It won village basketball court improvements valued at \$1,000.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Most Festive Business award in the Marianas Village Pride Christmas Decorating Contest of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers went to Savory Bistro Café on Saipan. The café won paint store credit valued at \$1,000.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Common Wealth Cannabis Co.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Common Wealth Cannabis Co. is proposing to renovate and occupy a unit within an existing 3-storey structure measuring 15' (L) x 26'.2" (W) x 8'.6" (H) for its Cannabis Lounge Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 21732-9 in the village of San Vicente. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: February 2, 2022
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office,
2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 1, 2022. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmzoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Triple Star International Corp.
dba Triple Star Recycling

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Triple Star International Corp., dba Triple Star Recycling, is proposing to renovate and occupy an existing 1-storey semi concrete structure measuring 100' (L) x 37' (W) x 14'(H) for its Recycling Center – Manufacturing & Processing Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 22560-R2 in the village of As Perdido. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: February 2, 2022
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Commonwealth Zoning Office,
2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 1, 2022. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmzoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Perry Inos, Jr., Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

February 2, 2022 15:00 PM
Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmzoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 02/02/2022 Agenda
4. Adoption of 12/29/2021 and 01/19/2022 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-9931 – Triple Star International Corp., dba Triple Star Recycling, is proposing to renovate and occupy an existing 1-storey semi concrete structure measuring 100' (L) x 37' (W) x 14'(H) for its Recycling Center – Manufacturing & Processing Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 22560-R2 in the village of As Perdido. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. Conditional Use Application #2020-10659 – Common Wealth Cannabis Co. is proposing to renovate and occupy a unit within an existing 3-storey structure measuring 15' (L) x 26'.2" (W) x 8'.6" (H) for its Cannabis Lounge Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Tract 21732-9 in the village of San Vicente. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. New Business

1. Saipan Cares for Animals – Amended Plans

D. Old Business

1. Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 - Amendments

E. Executive Session

F. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report

G. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

Business

United posts \$646 million loss, omicron casts shadow over 1Q

CHICAGO (AP)—United Airlines lost \$646 million in the fourth quarter and said Wednesday that the current spike in COVID-19 cases will hurt its results in the March quarter.

The airline said it expects its first-quarter revenue will be down 20% to 25% from the same period in 2019. Costs other than fuel will rise about 15% on a per-seat basis.

The omicron variant of the virus is showing up in United's plans for 2022. The airline had once hoped to operate 5% more flights than it did in 2019, but now expects to fly less this year than it did before the pandemic.

United said omicron is hurting near-term bookings, but the outlook is better for travel in spring and summer. The Chicago-based airline said it is on track to hit long-term financial targets for 2023 and 2026.

Company officials are scheduled to discuss the results with analysts on Thursday.

Red Cross: Hack exposes data on 515,000 vulnerable people

GENEVA (AP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is best known for helping war victims, says hackers broke into servers hosting its data and gained access to personal, confidential information on more than a half-million vulnerable people.

The Geneva-based agency said Wednesday the breach by unknown intruders this week affected data about some 515,000 people “including those separated from their families due to conflict, migration

and disaster, missing persons and their families, and people in detention.” It said the information originated in at least 60 Red Cross and Red Crescent chapters around the world.

“An attack on the data of people who are missing makes the anguish and suffering for families even more difficult to endure,” Robert Mardini, the ICRC’s director-general, said in a statement. “We are all appalled and perplexed that this humanitarian information would be targeted and

Agency spokeswoman Crystal Wells said that while the ICRC cannot say for certain that the records were stolen “we feel it is likely. We know that they have been inside our system and have had access to our data.”

Airlines cancel some flights after reduced 5G rollout in US

DALLAS (AP)—Some flights to and from the U.S. were canceled on Wednesday even after AT&T and Verizon scaled back the rollout of high-speed wireless service that could interfere with aircraft technology that measures altitude.

International carriers that rely heavily on the wide-body Boeing 777, and other Boeing aircraft, canceled early flights or switched to different planes following warnings from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Chicago-based plane maker. The 777

Airlines that fly only or mostly Airbus jets, including Air France and Ireland’s Aer Lingus, seemed less affected by the new 5G service.

Airlines had canceled more than 320 flights by Wednesday evening, or a little over 2% of the U.S. total, according to FlightAware. That was far less disruptive than during the Christmas

and New Year’s travel season, when a peak of 3,200, or 13%, of flights were canceled on Jan. 3 due to winter storms and workers out sick with COVID-19.

A trade group for the industry, Airlines for America, said cancellations weren’t as bad as feared because AT&T and



United Airlines planes are parked at gates at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., on July 1, 2020.

AP

United’s fourth-quarter loss compared with a loss of \$1.9 billion a year ago and profit of \$641 million in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Excluding special items, the company said its adjusted loss was \$1.60 per share. Analysts expected a wider loss of \$2.09 per share, according to a FactSet survey.

Revenue was \$8.19 billion, 25% below the same period in 2019 but better than the \$7.96 billion forecast by analysts. Passengers flew 28% fewer miles than they did two years earlier.

United lost \$1.96 billion for all of 2021, even after getting \$4 billion in federal pandemic relief to help cover labor costs.

The airline finished the year with 84,100 employees, down from 95,900 at the end of 2019.

Shares in United Airlines Holdings Inc. were down about 2.4% in extended trading following the release of the earnings report.

New York AG says Trump’s company misled banks, tax officials

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York attorney general says her investigators have uncovered evidence that former President Donald Trump’s company used “fraudulent or misleading” valuations of its golf clubs, skyscrapers and other property to get loans and tax benefits.

In a court filing late Tuesday, lawyers for Attorney General Letitia James told a judge they have not decided whether to bring a lawsuit in connection with the allegations, but that investigators should be allowed to question Trump and his two eldest children under oath as part of the civil probe.

The Trump Organization issued a statement Wednesday calling the investigation “baseless” and politically motivated.

The court documents contain the attorney general’s most detailed accounting yet of a long-running investigation into allegations that Trump’s company exaggerated the value of its holdings to impress lenders or misstated what land was worth to slash its tax burden.

The Trump Organization, James’ office said, overstated the value of land donations made in New York and California on paperwork submitted to the IRS to justify several million dollars in

tax deductions.

When giving estimates of Trump’s wealth, the company misreported the size of his Manhattan penthouse, saying it was nearly three times its actual size—a difference in value of about \$200 million, James’ office said, citing deposition testimony from Trump’s longtime financial chief Allen Weisselberg, who was charged last year with tax fraud in a parallel criminal investigation.

James’ office detailed its findings in a court motion seeking to force Trump, his daughter Ivanka Trump and his son Donald Trump Jr. to comply with subpoenas seeking their testimony.

Investigators, the court papers said, have “developed significant additional evidence indicating that the

“monsters that are using law enforcement for political retribution at the local, state and federal level” and aired an anti-James video that highlighted her past anti-Trump statements.

Trump’s legal team has sought to block the subpoenas, and it asked a federal court last month to put an end to James’ investigation. That lawsuit is pending. His lawyers say James is improperly attempting to obtain testimony in her civil probe that could be used in a parallel criminal investigation overseen by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

In a statement late Tuesday, James’ office said the evidence gathered so far shows that her investigation should proceed unimpeded.



An Emirates jetliner comes in for landing at the Dubai International Airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Dec. 11, 2019. Airlines across the world, including the long-haul carrier Emirates, rushed Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, to cancel or change flights heading into the U.S. over an ongoing dispute about the rollout of 5G mobile phone technology near American airports.

AP

Verizon agreed to temporarily reduce the rollout of 5G near dozens of airports while industry and the government work out a longer-term solution.

At O’Hare International Airport in Chicago, Sudeep Bhabad said his father-in-law’s flight to India was cancelled.

Nation

US begins offering 1B free COVID tests, but many more needed

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time, people across the U.S. can log on to a government website and order free, at-home COVID-19 tests. But the White House push may do little to ease the omicron surge, and experts say Washington will have to do a lot more to fix the country's long-troubled testing system.

The website, COVIDTests.gov, allows people to order four at-home tests per household, regardless of citizenship status, and have them delivered by mail. But the tests won't arrive for seven to 12 days, after omicron cases are expected to peak in many parts of the country.

The White House also announced Wednesday that it will begin making 400 million N95 masks available for free at pharmacies and community health centers. Both initiatives represent the kind of mass government investments long seen in parts of Europe and Asia, but delayed in the U.S.

"Should we have done more testing earlier? Yes, but we're

doing more now," President Joe Biden said Wednesday, recapping his first year in office.

Experts say the plan to distribute 1 billion tests is a good first step, but it must become a regular part of the pandemic response. In the same way that it has made vaccines free and plentiful, the government must use its purchasing power to assure a steady test supply, they say.

"The playbook for rapid tests should look exactly like the playbook for vaccines," said Zoe McLaren, a health economist at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

"They're both things that help keep cases down and help keep COVID under control."

A home test two-pack commonly sells for more than \$20 at the store—if you can find one, amid the omicron-triggered rush to get tested. Since last week, insurance companies have been required to cover the cost of up to eight at-home rapid tests bought at drugstores or online retailers.

The four tests per home

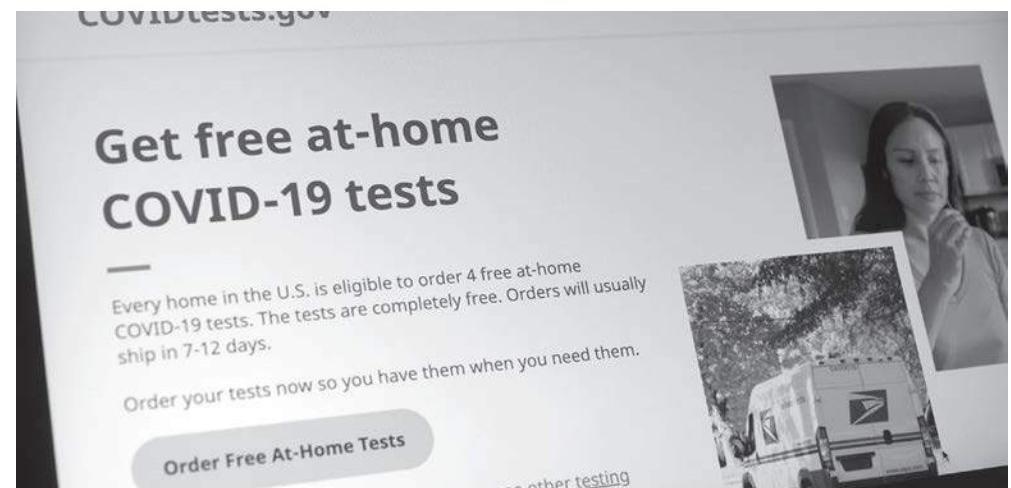
made available through the government website may not go very far in some households.

Kristen Keymont, 30, is a voice and piano teacher who teaches online and shares a house in Ipswich, Massachusetts, with her partner and two other people. When one of her roommates tested positive just before Christmas, she and her partner spent \$275 buying more than a dozen tests.

"One test each is nice, I guess," she said. "I'm glad we have them, but we're still going to need to buy more if one of us gets exposed."

It would be better, she said, if requests were linked to each person rather than each residential address.

Also, some people who live in buildings with multiple units had their requests for tests rejected, with the website saying tests had already been ordered for that address. As those complaints surfaced on social media, people began sharing advice on how to enter apartment or unit numbers in a way that the website would accept them.



A United States government website is displayed on a computer, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, in Walpole, Mass., that features a page where people can order free, at-home COVID-19 tests. The website, COVIDTests.gov, allows people to order four at-home tests per residence and have them delivered by mail.



BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 1939

Was called to her eternal rest by our Lord on January 03, 2022

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Teresa Aquiningoc Terlaje Santos & †Jose Ada Santos

Parents In-law: †Benbal Salas Borja & †Maria Tenorio Borja

Sons: †Robert S. Borja, †Raymond S. Borja

Daughters & Spouse: †Margaret B. Grover & †Gene B. Grover

†Maria S. Borja

†Glen B. Grover

Siblings & In-laws: †Rosa S. Aguon / †Ramon M. Aguon, †Serbino T. Santos / †Carmen F. Santos;

†Jose T. Santos, †Maria S. Muna / †Esteban T. Muna

Sisters In-law: †Susan T. Borja, †Emilia B. Babauta, †Joaquina B. Quitano, †Ana Borja

Brother In-law: †David Pangelinan

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Eugenio Tenorio Borja

Son & Daughter In-law: Emmanuel S. Borja / Shulan Fu Borja & Family

Grand Children: Gabriel Grover, Eugene Grover, George Grover, Chauntae Quichocho

Brothers In-law & Sisters In-law:

Manuel T. Quitano & Family

Maria Luisa B. Santos & Family

Ignacia B. Pangelinan & Family

She will be missed by numerous Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives and Friends.

Daily mass is being offered daily at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman and 6:00 a.m. mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Funeral and memorial services will be held on Monday, January 24, 2022. Her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for responso, holy rosary, viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am.

THE FAMILY

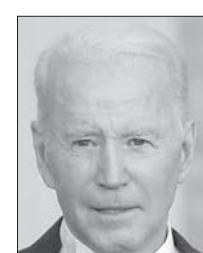
Biden approval hits new low at one year mark

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden ends his first year in the White House with a clear majority of Americans for the first time disapproving of his handling of the presidency in the face of an unrelenting pandemic and roaring inflation, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Asked on Wednesday at a wide-ranging news conference about his flagging popularity, Biden responded, "I don't believe the polls."

It's a stark reversal from early in Biden's presidency.

In July, 59% of Americans said they approved of Biden's job performance in an AP-NORC poll. His approval rating dipped to 50% by late September in the aftermath of the chaotic and bloody U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan and amid surging coro-



Biden

navirus infections and the administration's fitful efforts to push economic, infrastructure and tax policies through Congress.

The latest poll shows that Americans' confidence in Biden's handling of the pandemic—seen as a strength early in his administration—has further eroded as the omicron variant strains the health care system and further exhausts an American electorate that had hoped life would be back to a semblance of normalcy by now.

Asia

N. Korea slams US, hints at resuming nuclear, ICBM tests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Accusing the United States of hostility and threats, North Korea on Thursday said it will consider restarting “all temporarily-suspended activities” it had paused during its diplomacy with the Trump administration, in an apparent threat to resume testing of nuclear explosives and long-range missiles.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un presided over a Politburo meeting of the ruling Workers’ Party where officials set policy goals for “immediately bolstering” the North’s military capabilities to counter the Americans’ “hostile moves.”

Officials gave instructions to “reconsider in an overall scale the trust-building measures that we took on our own initiative ... and to promptly examine the issue of restarting all temporarily-suspended activities,” the KCNA said.

Experts say Kim is reviving

Pyongyang’s old playbook of brinkmanship to extract concessions from Washington and neighbors as he grapples with a decaying economy crippled by the pandemic, mismanagement and U.S.-led sanctions over his nuclear ambitions.

The North has been ramping up its weapons demonstrations recently, including four rounds of missile launches just this month, in an apparent effort to pressure Washington over a prolonged freeze in nuclear diplomacy.

The North’s Foreign Ministry had already warned of stronger and more explicit action after the Biden administration last week imposed fresh sanctions over the North’s continued missile testing activity. The U.N. Security Council has scheduled a closed-door meeting for Thursday to discuss North Korea and non-proliferation matters.

Boo Seung-Chan, spokesman of South Korea’s Defense Ministry, said it was closely



AP
People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shown during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022.

monitoring North Korea’s military activities but didn’t make presumptions about what the North’s next steps would be.

Kim announced a unilateral suspension of his nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests in 2018 as he initiated

diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump in an attempt to leverage his nukes for badly needed economic benefits.

Their summity came after a provocative run in North Korean nuclear and intercontinental range ballistic missile test-

ILO report says Afghan crisis causing massive job losses

or not receiving their wages. Many companies are hard pressed to stay afloat, as thousands of Afghans flee the country each day. Between 700,000-900,000 jobs are likely to have been lost by June as work becomes more scarce, said the report by the ILO, the United Nations agency working to promote labor standards and decent work for all people.

The economic fallout from the takeover has been vast, with cash shortages and limits

years ago.

“The situation in Afghanistan is critical and immediate support for stabilization and recovery is required,” Ramin Behzad, senior coordinator of the ILO for Afghanistan, said in a statement.

“While the priority is to meet immediate humanitarian needs, lasting and inclusive recovery will depend on people and communities having access to decent employment, livelihoods and basic services,” he said.

BANGKOK (AP)—More than a half million people in Afghanistan have lost their jobs since the Taliban takeover in mid-August, the International Labor Organization said in a report released Wednesday.

The ILO said the crisis has paralyzed the economy and slammed the labor market. The situation is especially devastating for women and for people working in farming, government posts, social services and construction, with many people losing their jobs

Indonesian militant gets 15 years in jail over Bali attacks

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Islamic militant who eluded capture for 18 years was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Wednesday after an Indonesian court found him guilty of hiding information about the 2002 Bali bombings from authorities and harboring other suspects.

Prosecutors previously demanded a life sentence for Aris Sumarsono, 58, whose real name is Arif Sunarso but is better known as Zulkarnaen, for his role in the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

However, the panel of three judges in East Jakarta District Court said they ignored the prosecutors’ first charge because the prosecution period had expired, and they sentenced Zulkarnaen to 15 years in jail for harboring other suspects, including bombmaker Upik Lawanga, and for hiding information from author-



AP
Police escort suspected militant Zulkarnaen, center, who is also known as Aris Sumarsono, upon arrival at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Indonesia, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020.

ties about the deadly attacks.

Indonesia’s Criminal Code stipulates that the authority to prosecute criminals is abolished after 18 years.

“The accused is found guilty in a legal and convincing man-

ner of carrying out an act of terrorism of third charge,” the presiding judge told the court in a session that was held remotely due to the pandemic, adding that Zulkarnaen knew about the terrorism attacks but “did

not inform authorities; instead, he harbored a terror suspect.”

Zulkarnaen has been detained since Dec. 10, 2020. The judges ordered that the time he has already served be deducted from his sentence.

to maintain its suspension on nuclear and ICBM tests, which Trump touted as a major achievement.

However, the pandemic thwarted many of Kim’s economic goals as the North imposed a lockdown and halted most of its trade with China, its major ally and economic lifeline.

North Korea appeared this month to have resumed railroad freight traffic with China that had been suspended for two years.

North Korea conducted its sixth and last test of a nuclear explosive device in September 2017 and its last launch of an ICBM was in November that year.

Some experts say that the North could dramatically raise the ante in weapons demonstrations after the end of February’s Winter Olympics in Beijing. They say Pyongyang’s leadership likely feels it would take a dramatic provocation to move the needle with the Biden administration, which has offered open-ended talks but showed no willingness to ease sanctions unless Kim takes real steps to abandon his nuclear and missile program.

But negotiations have stalled since their second summit in 2019, when the Americans rejected North Korea’s demand for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

At the end of that year, Kim vowed to further bolster his nuclear arsenal in face of “gangster-like” U.S. threats and pressure and declared a “frontal breakthrough” against sanctions while urging his people to stay resilient in a struggle for economic self-reliance. He then said the North was no longer obligated

Saying that U.S. hostility has reached a “danger line” that can no longer be overlooked, the North Korean Politburo members called for practical measures to “more reliably and effectively increase our physical strength for defending dignity, sovereign rights and interests of our state,” the KCNA said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Novavax becomes Australia’s 5th approved COVID-19 vaccine

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Novavax’s COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday became the fifth coronavirus vaccine approved for use in Australia. The country has ordered 51 million doses of the U.S.-manufactured vaccine, supplied under the brand Nuvaxovid, for its population of 26 million. Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines are already in use in Australia. Johnson and Johnson’s Janssen vaccine is also approved but the government has not bought any. The Novavax vaccine will be available to unvaccinated Australians aged 18 years and older but will not be used as a booster for the 95% of the population aged 16 and older who have already received a vaccine.

Japan widens virus curbs, including in Tokyo, as cases surge

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo and a dozen other areas in Japan will face new COVID-19 restrictions effective Friday, with local leaders shortening hours for restaurants, as omicron cases hit a record high in the capital. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced that the areas will be placed under a three-week restraint through Feb. 13 following endorsement by experts and the parliament. “We have decided that it is now necessary to prepare so that medical systems can firmly function, take appropriate measures and slow rising case numbers,” Kishida said. By working with local officials, taking steps based on experts’ scientific judgment and with medical workers and the people, “we want to overcome this situation,” he said. Tokyo logged 7,377 new cases on Wednesday, its highest number since its previous record of 5,908 on Aug. 13.

World

First aid flights leave for Tonga after volcano eruption

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The first flights carrying fresh water and other aid to Tonga were finally able to leave Thursday after the Pacific nation's main airport runway was cleared of ash left by a huge volcanic eruption.

A C-130 Hercules military transport plane left New Zealand carrying water containers, kits for temporary shelters, generators, hygiene supplies and communications equipment, New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said.

Australia also sent a C-17 Globemaster transport plane with another to follow that were carrying humanitarian supplies. The flights were all due to arrive in Tonga on Thursday afternoon.

The deliveries will be done with no contact because Tonga is desperate to make sure foreigners don't bring in the coronavirus. It has not had any outbreaks of COVID-19 and has reported just a single case since the pandemic began.

"The aircraft is expected to be on the ground for up to 90 minutes before returning to New Zealand," Defense Minister Peeni Henare said.

Japan also said it would send emergency relief, in-



This photo provided by Broadcom Broadcasting shows a damaged area in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, following Saturday's volcanic eruption near the Pacific archipelago. AP

cluding drinking water and equipment for cleaning away volcanic ash. Two Hercules aircraft and a transport vessel carrying two CH-47 Chinook helicopters would leave possibly Thursday, the Defense Ministry said.

Japanese Defense Minister

Nobuo Kishi told reporters that his ministry "will do everything we can for the disaster-hit people of Tonga."

U.N. humanitarian offi-

cials report that about 84,000 people—more than 80% of Tonga's population—have been impacted by the volcano's eruption, U.N. spokesman Sté-

phane Dujarric said, pointing to three deaths, injuries, loss of homes and polluted water.

Communications with Tonga remain limited after Sat-

UK lifts COVID restrictions, says omicron wave 'has peaked'

LONDON (AP)—Face masks will no longer be mandatory in public places and COVID-19 passports will be dropped for large events as infections level off in most parts of the country, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Wednesday.

Johnson told lawmakers that the restrictions were being eased because government scientists think it is likely that the surge of infections prompted by the highly contagious omicron variant "has now peaked nationally."

While hospitals in northern England still are getting pressed by high caseloads and infections were still rising in schools, Johnson said hospital admissions and patients in intensive care units elsewhere in England were stabilizing or falling.

The government is no longer advising people to work from home, and compulsory face masks will be scrapped in secondary school classrooms starting Thursday.

Mandatory COVID-19 passes will not be needed to gain entry to large-scale events beginning Jan. 27. Face masks will no longer be legally required anywhere in England as of that day.

"We will trust the judgment

of the British people and no longer criminalize anyone who chooses not to wear one," Johnson said.

The restrictions were introduced in December to slow the rapid spread of the omicron variant and buy time for the population to get their booster vaccine shot.

Johnson said Wednesday that more than 90% of those over age 60 in the U.K. have had booster shots.

Official figures showed that COVID-19 infections have dropped in most parts of the U.K. for the first time since early December. The government reported 108,069 new cases on Wednesday, about half the daily number recorded over the holidays.

The requirement for those infected to self-isolate for five full days remains, but Johnson said that measure will also end in the coming weeks. He said while the self-isolation rule expires on March 24, he will seek to scrap it earlier if the virus data continues to improve.

Johnson and Health Secretary Sajid Javid both suggested that the government is planning for a post-pandemic period when it can treat COVID-19 more like the flu.

Biden predicts Russia will invade Ukraine, warns Putin

important that we keep everyone in NATO on the same page."

The news conference came at a critical moment in Europe as Russia has amassed 100,000 troops near the Ukrainian border and a series of talks in Europe last week failed to ease tensions. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva on Friday. On Wednesday, Blinken met with Ukraine's president in Kyiv and he heads to Berlin on

Thursday for talks with allies.

Biden reiterated that he did not think that Putin has made a final decision on whether to invade, but speculated "my guess is he will move in."

Even after he sought to clarify his comments about a potential NATO response to a "minor incursion" by Russia, the White House moved quickly to make clear that Biden was not telegraphing to Putin that the U.S. would tolerate some military action against Ukraine.

WORLD BRIEFS

UAE envoy: Yemen's Houthis used missiles in Abu Dhabi attack

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Yemen's Houthi rebels used cruise and ballistic missiles, in addition to drones, in an attack on Abu Dhabi this week that killed three people and set off fires at a fuel depot and an international airport, the Emirati ambassador to the United States said Wednesday. The remarks by Ambassador Yousef Al-Otaiba marked an official acknowledgement that missiles—and not just drones—were used in Monday's attack, claimed by the Iran-backed Houthis. "Several attacks—a combination of cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and drones—targeted civilian sites" in the United Arab Emirates, Al-Otaiba said. "Several were intercepted, a few of them didn't and three innocent civilians unfortunately lost their lives," he added in remarks at a virtual event hosted by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America. The event was held to discuss U.S. policies and Israeli relations with the UAE and Bahrain.

Man who threatened Dutch minister gets 6 months in prison

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A man who stood outside the home of a former Dutch foreign minister shouting and waving a burning torch was sent to prison Wednesday for six months, Dutch media reported. Threats aimed at Dutch politicians have increased in recent years amid a polarization fu-

led by the pandemic and lockdown measures. Prime Minister Mark Rutte last week called such intimidation "completely unacceptable." The suspect, identified as Max van den B., was detained two weeks ago outside the home of Sigrid Kaag, who is now a vice prime minister and finance minister in Rutte's new ruling coalition. Kaag was attending a debate in parliament during Wednesday's hearing at a courtroom in The Hague and sent a written statement, she said on Twitter.

Algeria shuts schools for 10 days as COVID infections surge

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Algeria's leader on Wednesday ordered all elementary and high schools closed for 10 days because of surging COVID-19 infections in the North African country and authorities tightened entry requirements at airports. The decision by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to cancel classes starting Thursday came after an emergency meeting Wednesday of the Council of Ministers, members of the COVID-19 scientific committee and the country's security officials. The presidential statement said university staff and health authorities should decide themselves whether to continue with in-person classes. Algeria is battling infections from both the delta variant infections and the fast-spreading omicron variant. On Wednesday, health officials reported a daily record of 1,359 omicron cases and 12 deaths.

Off the Wall

Study nixes Mars life in rock found in Antarctica

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A 4 billion-year-old meteorite from Mars that caused a splash here on Earth decades ago contains no evidence of ancient, primitive Martian life after all, scientists reported Thursday.

In 1996, a NASA-led team announced that organic compounds in the rock appeared to have been left by living creatures. Other scientists were skeptical and researchers chipped away at that premise over the decades, most recently by a team led by the Carnegie Institution for Science's Andrew Steele.

Tiny samples from the meteorite show the carbon-rich compounds are actually the result of water—most likely salty, or briny, water—flowing over the rock for a prolonged period, Steele said. The findings appear in the journal *Science*.

During Mars' wet and early past, at least two impacts occurred near the rock, heating the planet's surrounding surface, before a third impact bounced it off the red planet and into space millions of years ago. The 4-pound (2-kilogram) rock was found in Antarctica in 1984.

Groundwater moving through the cracks in the rock, while it was still on Mars, formed the tiny globs of carbon that are present, according to the researchers. The same thing can happen on Earth and could help explain the presence of methane in Mars' atmosphere, they said. But



(AP PHOTO/DAVID J. PHILLIP)

The meteorite labeled ALH84001 sits in a chamber at a Johnson Space Center lab in Houston, Aug. 7, 1996. Scientists say they've confirmed the meteorite from Mars contains no evidence of ancient Martian life. The rock caused a splash 25 years ago when a NASA-led team announced that its organic compounds may have been left by living creatures, however primitive. Researchers chipped away at that theory over the decades. A team of scientists led by Andrew Steele of the Carnegie Institution published their findings Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022.

two scientists who took part in the original study took issue with these latest findings, calling them "disappointing." In a shared email, they said they stand by their 1996 observations.

"While the data presented incrementally adds to our knowledge of (the meteorite), the interpretation is hardly novel, nor is it supported by the research," wrote Kathie

Thomas-Keprta and Simon Clemett, astromaterial researchers at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"Unsupported speculation does nothing to resolve the conundrum surrounding the origin of organic matter" in the meteorite, they added.

According to Steele, advances in technology made his team's new findings possible.

day, one of the few surviving copies of Superman's debut, Action Comics No. 1, sold for \$3.18 million, putting it among the priciest books ever auctioned. None of the sellers or buyers were identified.

Cool new disk: Spinning ice drawing chilly gawkers again

WESTBROOK, Maine (AP)—A swirling disk of ice on a Maine river is drawing onlookers in the heart of winter once again. The disk has formed in the Presumpscot River in Westbrook. A handful of dog-walkers and onlookers stopped to gaze at the curious ice formation on a chilly Thursday morning around dawn. The disk drew fans from around the globe when it first appeared in the river in 2019. It also partially formed in 2020.

Science & Technology

Rare, pristine coral reef is found off Tahiti coast

By VICTORIA MILKO
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Deep in the South Pacific, scientists have explored a rare stretch of pristine corals shaped like roses off the coast of Tahiti. The reef is thought to be one of the largest found at such depths and seems untouched by climate change or human activities.

Laetitia Hédouin said she first saw the corals during a recreational dive with a local diving club months earlier.

"When I went there for the first time, I thought, 'Wow—we need to study that reef. There's something special about that reef,'" said Hédouin, a researcher at the French National Center for Scientific Research in Moorea, French Polynesia.

What struck Hédouin was that the corals looked healthy and weren't affected by a bleaching event in 2019. Corals are tiny animals that grow and form reefs in oceans around the world.

Globally, coral reefs have been depleted from overfishing and pollution. Cli-



ALEXIS ROSENFELD/@ALEXIS.ROSENFELD VIA AP

This photo provided by @alexis.rosenfeld shows corals shaped like roses in the waters off the coast of Tahiti of the French Polynesia in December 2021.

mate change is also harming delicate corals—including those in areas neighboring the newly discovered reef—with severe bleaching caused by warmer waters. Between 2009 and 2018, 14% of the world's corals were killed, according to a 2020 report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Project.

The newfound reef, stretching 2 miles (3 kilometers), was studied late last year during a dive expedition supported by UNESCO. Unlike most of the world's

mapped corals, which are found in relatively shallow waters, this one was deeper—between 115 feet (35 meters) to 230 feet (70 meters).

Exploring such depths posed a challenge: the deeper a diver goes underwater, the shorter amount of time can be safely spent at each depth. The team was equipped with special tanks and did 200 hours of diving to study the reef, including taking photographs, measurements and samples of the coral.

Solving the mystery of vanishing Facebook photos and videos

TECH Q&A
By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.)

work diagnostics," see tinyurl.com/3r54bh2c for wired and wireless networks.

■ If you have a PC, update the software drivers for its wired and wireless network adapters (see tinyurl.com/43hwje7h). Macs get drivers via software updates (see tinyurl.com/2jmy4bf8).

■ Try connecting to the internet through a different DNS server. DNS (Domain Name System) servers convert the names of websites into the numbers the internet uses. You should also empty a Windows cache memory associated with DNS. (For PCs, see solutions two and three at tinyurl.com/2p8atnjm). (For Macs, see item six at tinyurl.com/3r54bh2c).

■ Check your internet

speed when Facebook pictures vanish (see speedtest.net). Social media sites typically require three megabits of download speed but recommend 10 megabits—not much compared to typical home internet speeds of 40 to 100 megabits.

But if you use Facebook while doing other things—streaming video or music, playing online games or making video calls—there might not be enough capacity left over to receive Facebook photos and videos.

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Missouri Highway Patrol mistakenly sends Batman-themed alert

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Missouri State Highway Patrol alert sent cellphones blaring statewide: Authorities in Gotham City, Missouri, were searching for a purple and green 1978 Dodge 3700GT. But there is no Gotham City, Missouri, and the car referenced was the one used by the Joker in the 1989 "Batman" movie. Soon after the Tuesday evening alert, the patrol sent another saying to disregard it. In a brief news release, the patrol said a routine test of Missouri's Blue Alert system was inadvertently transmitted statewide. The system is meant to let the public know when a police officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty.

Spider-Man comic page sells for record \$3.36M bidding

DALLAS (AP)—A single page of artwork from a 1984 Spider-Man comic book sold at auction Thursday for a record \$3.36 million. Mike Zeck's artwork for page 25 from Marvel Comics' "Secret Wars No. 8" brings the first appearance of Spidey's black suit. The symbiote suit would eventually lead to the emergence of the character Venom. The record bidding, which started at \$330,000 and soared past \$3 million, came on the first day of Heritage Auctions' four-day comic event in Dallas. The previous record for an interior page of a U.S. comic book was \$657,250 for art from a 1974 issue of "The Incredible Hulk" that featured a tease for the first appearance of Wolverine. Also Thurs-

day, one of the few surviving copies of Superman's debut, Action Comics No. 1, sold for \$3.18 million, putting it among the priciest books ever auctioned. None of the sellers or buyers were identified.

Cool new disk: Spinning ice drawing chilly gawkers again

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Life & Style

Bronx-raised Cardi B offers to pay fire victim burial costs

NEW YORK (AP)—Cardi B has offered to pay the burial costs for all 17 people killed in a fire that ripped through a New York City high-rise.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced Wednesday that the Grammy-winning rapper had offered the financial relief for victims of the fire in the Bronx, where she grew up.

Many of the victims had ties to Gambia, and families of several of the victims planned to bury them in their West African homeland. Cardi B has committed to paying the repatriation expenses for the victims who will be buried in



Gambia, the mayor's office said.

"I'm extremely proud to be from the Bronx and I have lots of family and friends who live and work there still. So, when I heard about the fire and all of the victims,

I knew I needed to do something to help," Cardi B in a statement. "I cannot begin to imagine the pain and anguish that the families of the victims are experiencing, but I hope that not having to worry about the costs associated with burying their loved ones will help as they move forward and heal. I send my prayers and condolences to everyone affected by this horrific tragedy."

French actor Gaspard Ulliel, 37, dies after ski accident

LYON, France (AP)—French actor Gaspard Ulliel, known for appearing in Chanel perfume ads as well as film and television roles, died Wednesday after a skiing accident in the Alps, local authorities said. He was 37.

Ulliel portrayed the young Hannibal Lecter in 2007's "Hannibal Rising" and fashion mogul Yves Saint Laurent in the 2014 biopic "Saint Laurent." He is also in the upcoming Marvel series "Moon Knight," and was the advertising face of the Chanel men's fragrance Bleu de Chanel.

While skiing Tuesday afternoon at La Rosière resort, Ulliel collided with another skier on an intermediate slope after turning left, presumably to join his friends on an adjoining slope, Anne Gaches, the Savoie pros-

ecutor in Albertville, said in a statement Wednesday.

Preliminary findings from an investigation indicated that "both skiers fell to the ground after the collision," the prosecutor said. Ulliel was "motionless and unconscious when rescuers arrived," while the other skier was unharmed, Gaches said.

The director of the La Rosière resort, Jean Regaldo, told BFM television that Ulliel was not wearing a helmet when rescuers arrived. Helmets are not required on French ski slopes but are strongly recommended.

Regaldo said weather conditions were "perfect" at the time



of the accident and that there were no rocks in the area of the collision, which he described as easily accessible.

Ulliel was transported by helicopter to Grenoble University Hospital, where doctors tried to revive him, she said. The actor was pronounced dead Wednesday shortly after 4 p.m., Gaches said.

The office of the actor's agent confirmed that Ulliel died on Wednesday.

Ulliel started performing at age 11, alongside renowned actress Sandrine Bonnaire, and went on to win two of France's top cinema awards, the Cesar.

A dog bite on his face at age six left him with a trademark scar.

lenged the show's entire premise of left-wing vs. right-wing debate. Stewart told co-hosts Tucker Carlson and Paul Begala they had a "responsibility to the public discourse" that they were cheapening with insincere political role-playing.

"You're doing theater when you should be doing debate," said Stewart in an openly hostile exchange with Carlson. "What you do is not honest. What you do is partisan hackery."

Stewart's appearance rocketed him to new levels of



prominence and may have sealed the fate of "Crossfire," which was canceled three months later.

Since retiring from "The Daily Show" in 2015, Stewart has become a vocal pro-

ponent of a number

of social causes and one of the most prominent voices in support of health care for Sept. 11 first responders in New York City. He recently returned to television as host of "The Problem with Jon Stewart" on Apple TV+.

"For me, tuning into his television programs over the years has always been equal

parts entertainment and truth," Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter said in a statement. "In these often divisive and challenging times, someone like Jon, through his undaunted advocacy for first responders and veterans, also demonstrates that we all can make a difference in this world through humor, humanity, and patriotism."

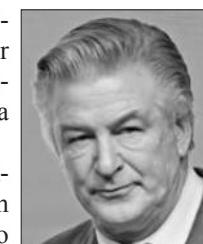
Stewart will be presented with the award during a gala ceremony on April 24, featuring testimonials by a host of comedians and surprise guests. He was one of the comedians who spoke during Dave Chappelle's Mark Twain Award ceremony in 2019.

Alec Baldwin sued for defamation by family of slain Marine

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—The widow and two sisters of a U.S. Marine killed in Afghanistan are suing Alec Baldwin, alleging the actor exposed them to a flood of social media hatred by claiming on Instagram that one sister was an "insurrectionist" for attending former President Donald Trump's Washington, D.C., rally on Jan. 6 last year.

The sister, Roice McCollum, protested peacefully and legally; was not among those who stormed the U.S. Capitol that day and, after being interviewed by the FBI, "was never detained, arrested, accused of or charged with any crime," according to the lawsuit filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Cheyenne.

The lawsuit comes as Baldwin is immersed in an ongoing investigation into the death of a cinematographer and the



"Protesting is perfectly legal."

The suit says Baldwin responded by remarking that "her activities resulted in the unlawful destruction of government property, the death of a law enforcement officer, an assault on the certification of the presidential election," and told McCollum that he'd reposted the photo to his 2.4 million Instagram followers.

"Good luck," Baldwin wrote, according to the lawsuit.

"Baldwin plainly ignored Roice's denial of rioting and the assertion that she was cleared by the FBI for participating in any of the conduct Baldwin chose to falsely attribute to her via his massive following," the lawsuit reads.

Man's history of sexual abuse hidden for years

DEAR ABBY: During my teenage years, I was repeatedly raped by my brother. The emotional and physical damage has left my life broken. He is now in a long-term relationship. Should I tell his girlfriend about the abuse? When I confronted him about it years ago, he denied it. If you were his girlfriend, wouldn't YOU want to know?

HOLDING A SECRET

DEAR HOLDING: Yes, I would want to know. I'll bet your parents would have also wanted to know. As would your teachers or school counselors, so your brother could have been reported as a sexual predator and stopped. By all means tell the girlfriend, particularly if she has a daughter.

P.S. Because what your brother did has left lasting scars, please seek counseling with a licensed therapist with expertise in treating victims of sexual abuse. Contact RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network) for more guidance. You will find it on the internet at rainn.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have just been diagnosed with cancer. I doubt that I will live another 10 years. My wife is arguing with me because I want to draw down my 401(k) over the next 10 years so I can enjoy the savings I have accrued during my long

career. We are talking about a LOT of money, Abby -- expensive cars, expensive second homes, extravagant vacations.

How can I convince her that I deserve this after having worked for 40 years, and that we should enjoy these savings for the period of time left for me on Earth?

WANTS TO ENJOY LIFE NOW

DEAR WANTS: I'm sure your diagnosis has been frightening for both you and your wife. She may be worried that if you plow through all the money, there will be nothing left for her after you are gone. Although you are dubious about it, there is also the possibility that you may live 10 more years and beyond. That's why this is an important subject you and your wife should discuss with a financial adviser.

DEAR ABBY: I work in an office where people occasionally bring in treats to share with co-workers. Usually, we place the goodies in a common area and let others know there's food available and they're welcome to it.

The problem I'm having is that one particular co-worker brings in treats and shares them only with her favorite office buddies. She's not discreet about it either. She struts around the office and makes a big scene delivering her homemade treats to her friends, right in front of the people she has chosen not to include. Should she be confronted and told she's being rude

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

and inconsiderate, or should her behavior just be ignored?

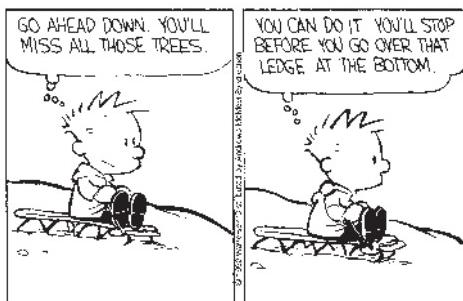
MISSING OUT

DEAR MISSING OUT: What your co-worker is doing is rude. This is a lesson in politeness and consideration for others that children in grammar school usually learn. (Perhaps she was playing hooky that day.) That said, if there's no rule in your office against it, I do not advise confronting her. Turnabout is fair play, and perhaps you should discuss a "delicious" solution with the rest of the unfavored few.

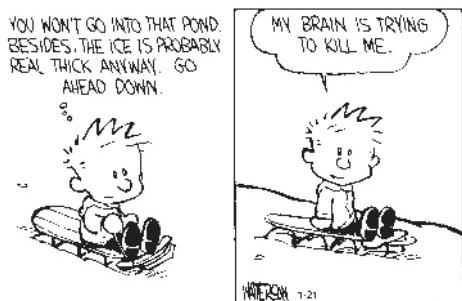
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



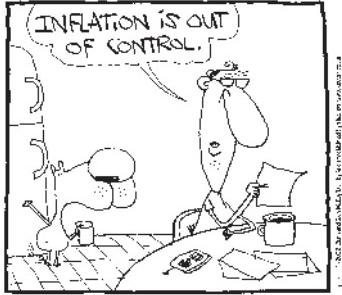
Adam@home



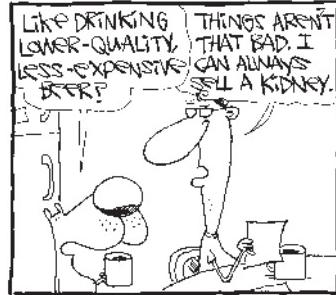
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



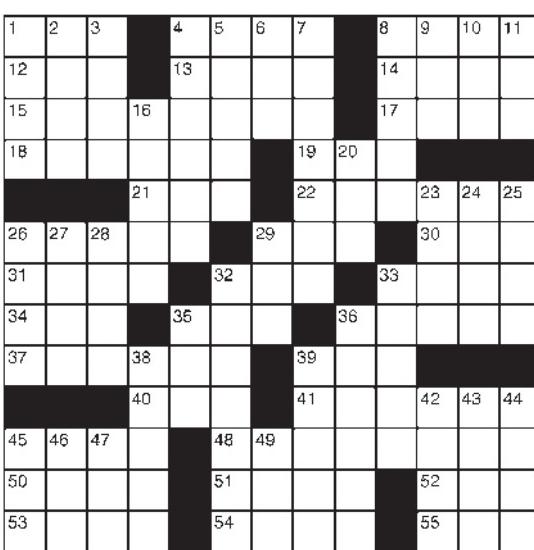
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	"Pop Goes the —"	DOWN	20	Soul, to Camus
1 Scene stealer	39	Evening hrs.	1 Door fastener	23	Pleased
4 Pilgrimage to Mecca	40	Chopping tool	2 Regrettably	24	Green land
8 Auction	41	Portugal's place	3 Crèche figure	25	Crystal gazer
12 Carte lead-in	42	Apple computers	4 "Quiet!"	26	"Candida" playwright
13 Pakistani language	43	48 Hit song by Shawn Mendes	5 Stood	27	Hefty book
14 Currier's partner	44	song by Camila Cabello	6 Banned pesticide	28	Activist Parks
15 Florida city	45	50 "Oops!"	7 "Walk on the Wild Side"	29	Covert agent
17 Clothing store section	46	51 Walked (on)	8 "The Lion King"	32	Piano's cousin
18 Intimidates, with "out"	47	52 Standard	9 "Hail!"	33	Stair part
19 Apprehend	48	53 Infatuated	10 Actor Cariou	35	Puzzle
21 Shade	49	54 Bohemian	11 Curved	36	Represent
22 Pictures	50	55 Swiss peak	12 Letter peak	38	Malia's sister
26 Throat affliction	51	56 Yeared	13 Yeared	39	Wine grape
29 Sault — Marie	52	57 Dem J.R. A.A.	14 Yeared	42	TV host Kelly
30 Fib	53	58 H E D D A	15 Slanted type (Abbr.)	43	43 Slanted type (Abbr.)
31 Cobra feature	54	59 A N N I K A	44 Org. for seniors	44	Org. for seniors
32 IRS employee	55	60 I L E G L O R Y D A Y S	45 Coffee holder	45	Coffee holder
33 Exceptional	56	61 F A A M A R A A G R A	46 Caught ya!	46	Caught ya!
34 Mornings, briefly	57	62 I L L A H A B S O A P	47 Gear tooth	47	Gear tooth
35 "Oy —!"	58	63 D E M J R A A	48 Goof up	48	Goof up
36 Duck down	59	64 H E D D A			

Solution time: 25 mins.

 Yesterday's answer 1-21



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Booboo Stewart, 28; Ashton Eaton, 34; Emma Bunton, 46; Geena Davis, 66.

Happy Birthday: Stick to your plans, regardless of what others do or say. Trust and believe in yourself and your ability to reach your goals using practicality, innovation and dedication. Put your health and well-being first, and have a routine in place that will encourage you to look and feel terrific. Build your confidence, and set out to conquer your dreams. Your numbers are 5, 12, 24, 28, 32, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make someone happy, and you'll reap the rewards that come with doing something that makes a difference. Think outside the box, and you'll discover an exciting way to use your skills fortuitously. Put your energy where it counts most. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will be uplifting. Socialize or do something that will make you feel good about the way you look. Plan a trip, sign up for a course or spend time with people you enjoy being around. Take responsibility for your happiness. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use the experience and skills you have to your advantage. You can turn the tables on a situation that is unfair or causing you grief if you remain calm and use your intelligence to sway others to share your concerns and solutions. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for opportunities, and you won't be disappointed. Make upgrades at home that encourage you to spend more time there and less

wandering about spending money you shouldn't. Focus on relationships, togetherness and family fun. Romance is on the rise. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Concentrate on stability, maintenance and responsibility. Live up to your promises, and say no to unnecessary alterations. Spend less and take on more to avoid dependent situations that can result in a loss of control. Own the stage; take a leadership position. **★★★**

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATEnew direction. **★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Evaluate your financial position and how you can use your assets effectively. Investing in your well-being will bring peace of mind. Discuss your plans with someone you love, but don't give anyone the right to control your interests. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Uncertainty will set in if you expect too much from others. Set goals and pace yourself. Leave enough time to do the work yourself, and you'll avoid disappointment. Taking care of matters from start to finish will help you excel. **★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Rethink your home/work strategy, and you'll come up with a stylish way to balance your life. An uncertain situation regarding responsibilities will need an adjustment if you want to take advantage of an opportunity. Never say never. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Personal information you discover will change the way you feel. Avoid letting emotions turn into anger when new possibilities can lead to a brighter future. Use ingenuity to guide you and your attributes to point you in a

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6	5		7				
9			4		5			
5			3			6		
7			3					
4	3			6	9			
2						7		
1			5			8		
3			8		4			
2			1	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	9	3	8	5	4	1	6
8	3	1	6	2	4	7	5	9
6	5	4	9	1	7	2	3	8
2	9	5	4	7	8	1	6	3
1	4	8	5	3	6	9	7	2
3	6	7	1	9	2	5	8	4
4	7	3	2	6	1	8	9	5
9	8	2	7	5	3	6	4	1
5	1	6						

Embiid ties career high with 50 points, 76ers beat Magic



PHILADELPHIA
(AP)—Joel Embiid doesn't need to emulate any other NBA star.

He proved Wednesday night that he's in a class of his own.

Embiid tied his career high with 50 points in just 27 minutes, leading a dominant third quarter that carried the Philadelphia 76ers to a 123-110 victory over the Orlando Magic.

Embiid also had 12 rebounds and three blocks while making 17 of 23 field goals and 15 of 17 free throws. The four-time All-Star and MVP candidate played just 58 seconds of the fourth quarter.

Before the game, teammate Tyrese Maxey asked Embiid: "Who you going to be tonight? Shaq (O'Neal)? Dirk (Nowitzki)?"

"(He said) 'I'm going to be Joel,'" Maxey said. "(I said) 'You go be Joel.' And that's what he did."

"I said me," Embiid said, "because at times whenever I want I'm able to be Shaq, whenever I want I'm also able to be Dirk, or Kobe (Bryant) or MJ (Michael Jordan), or any guards really, meaning shooting off the dribble, or pull-ups, or ball-handling, just a combination of everything offensively."

Embiid joined Hall of Famers Allen Iverson and Wilt Chamberlain as the only players in club history with multiple games of 50 points or more, while getting at least 50 points and 10 rebounds in the fewest minutes of any NBA player since 1955, according to Elias.

"That was easy, quick, efficient and determined," Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers said. "He's a little bit of (Hakeem) Olajuwon and a little bit of (Kevin) Garnett. It's a heck of a combination if you can get it. But the difference is he can go out to the 3-point line, which sets him apart. He's Joel Embiid; he's not any of those guys. He's his own guy."

Philadelphia was booted off the court at halftime, trailing 57-47. But the 76ers came out determined after the break, using a 17-6 run over the first 5:05. Embiid finally got some help from his teammates during the spurt, as Maxey drained a pair of 3-pointers.

Nets 119, Wizards 118
In Washington, Kyrie Irving scored 22 of his 30 points in the first half, and Brooklyn held off Washington when Kyle Kuzma and Spencer Dinwiddie missed 3-pointers in the final seconds.

Washington trailed by as many as 16 points, but a 3-pointer by Kuzma cut the lead to one with 36 seconds left. That set the stage for a wild finish.

A blocked shot by Montrezl Harrell gave Washington the ball with a chance to win. The



to cap a game-ending 11-0 run that rallied the Detroit Pistons past the Sacramento Kings 133-131 on Wednesday night.

Saddiq Bey had 30 points and seven rebounds to help the Pistons (11-33) win their fourth in seven games. Kelly Olynyk added a season-high 22 points and nine rebounds.

Joseph, the former Kings guard who was dealt to the Pistons at the trade deadline last year, finished with 19 points and nine assists.

Terence Davis scored 14 of his career-high 35 points in the fourth quarter for the Kings. De'Aaron Fox added 27 points, eight assists and six rebounds but missed a 14-footer that bounced off the front of the rim at the buzzer.

Sacramento has dropped seven of nine.

Pacers 111, Lakers 104

In Los Angeles, Caris LeVert scored 22 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, Malcolm Brogdon added 19 and the Indiana Pacers increased the pressure on Lakers coach Frank Vogel with a 111-104 victory over Los Angeles on Wednesday night.

Domantas Sabonis had 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists as the Pacers snapped their four-game losing streak

with just their second victory in 12 games. The Eastern Conference's 13th-place team roared past the Lakers in the fourth, starting with a 14-2 run led by LeVert and concluding with his three consecutive buckets in the final two minutes.

LeBron James had 30 points and 12 rebounds—including the 10,000th of his career—for the Lakers, who have lost four of five to fall back below .500. Talen Horton-Tucker added 20 points in the latest embarrassing loss during a season dotted with them for the 17-time champion franchise.

Nuggets 130, Clippers 128

In Denver, the Nuggets defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 130-128 in overtime in Wednesday's thrilling Western Conference showdown at Ball Arena. Nikola Jokic was brilliant and led the way for the victors, who improved to 23-20 overall and 5-2 in their last seven games even though they continue to play without Jamal Murray and Michael Porter Jr.

The reigning MVP was unstoppable in crunch time, but it was his cross-court pass while facing a double team to Aaron Gordon for the winning three in overtime that stood out the most.

Reggie Jackson and Ivica Zubac played well in defeat for the Clippers, who dropped to 22-24 as they attempt to tread water without Kawhi Leonard and Paul George.

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (21) goes up for a dunk during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Wizards didn't call a timeout, and Kuzma and Dinwiddie both missed.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 27 points for the Nets, and Harden had 18. Brooklyn won for only the fifth time in its last 12 games.

Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 23 points.

Mavericks 102, Raptors 98

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored a season-high 41 points, including a clutch 3-pointer with 1:01 to play, and tied a season best with 14 rebounds as surging Dallas held off Toronto.

Kristaps Porzingis had 18 points and seven rebounds to help Dallas win its fourth straight and 10th in 11 games. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 16 off the bench for the Mavericks, who host NBA-best Phoenix on Thursday.

Dennis Schröder paced Boston with 24 points. Jaylen Brown scored 21 and Al Horford had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Boston star Jayson Tatum was hampered by foul trouble and finished with just 12 points on 5-of-19 shooting in 35 minutes. The Celtics had won five of six.

Bulls 117, Cavaliers 104

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Nikola Vucevic added 24 points and 12 rebounds, and struggling Chicago closed out Cleveland with a 14-2 run.

The Bulls steadied themselves after losing a season-high four straight and falling into a first-place tie with Miami in the Eastern Conference.

Ayo Dosunmu nailed a 3-pointer for Chicago with just over four minutes remaining to start the decisive rally. Vucevic hit two 3s and a layup during that stretch, helping Chicago stop Cleveland's season-high, five-game win streak.

Dosunmu scored 18 points. Coby White added 16 points and four steals.

Lauri Markkanen led Cleveland with 28 points in his first game in Chicago and second against the Bulls since a sign-and-trade deal in August. Darius Garland had 20 points and

12 assists for the Cavs, and Evan Mobley added 18 points.

Heat 104, Trail Blazers 92

In Miami, Caleb Martin scored 26 points, Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and short-handed Miami beat Portland.

Max Strus scored 15 points for Miami, including a 3-pointer with 2:01 remaining that put the Heat up 10. Dewayne Dedmon scored 12 for the Heat, who started the game without Kyle Lowry and Tyler Herro — then lost Jimmy Butler to a first-half ejection.

Lowry missed the game for personal reasons. Herro entered the NBA's health and safety protocols on Wednesday.

Anfernee Simons scored 27 points, CJ McCollum scored 24 and Jusuf Nurkic finished with 18 points and 14 rebounds for Portland. Robert Covington added 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Hawks 134, Timberwolves 122

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 23 of his 37 points in the third quarter, sparking Atlanta's comeback against Minnesota.

Led by Young, who had 14 assists, the Hawks opened the second half with a 20-2 run after the Timberwolves led 73-61 at halftime. Minnesota's biggest lead was 16 points in the first quarter.

De'Andre Hunter had 22 points for Atlanta. D'Angelo Russell led Minnesota with 31 points.

Minnesota's Anthony Edwards drew two technical fouls and was ejected with 5:57 remaining in the third quarter. Edwards thought he had been fouled on a drive to the basket and continued to argue his case following his first

Back-to-back soccer matches at NMISTC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be hosting back-to-back exhibition games beginning this Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



First up is the NMI Men's U19 National Team and Men's All-Star tiff set for Jan. 23 at 4:30pm, while the other exhibition match featuring the NMI Women's U18 National Team and the Women's All-Star will be

played on Jan. 24 at 6:30pm. The official roster for the NMI Men's U19 National Team hasn't been announced, but expected to hit the pitch in this weekend's match are the core of the squad that ruled the MSL Cup in the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021. The NMI Boys U18 National Team topped the year-ending competition after nosing out Tan Holdings Football Club in a penalty shootout, 4-3.

For this Sunday's exhibition game, the NMI Men's



NMI Boys U18 National Team's Akira Kadokura, left, performs drills with his teammates during a training session last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

AT TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL 50K Pika Bike Race set on Feb. 19



Participants in the 50K Pika Bike Race traverse Broadway on Feb. 13, 2021, at the 17th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in The Marianas.

NMI

From Page 24

sessions three times a week and will run until March 31. By April until the June, NMI players will train six times a week on and off the court.

"This will be a very big challenge to our players and us, coaches because we are pressed for time. But this is also the time to test our commitment to the program and to show our willingness to go out there and represent the NMI well. We have to keep

pushing each other hard to be at our best possible form and get ready come game time," Diaz said.

Besides their regular training sessions, the NMI players are also planning to compete in a tournament in Guam in April to gauge the teams' preparations for the Micro Cup. Fundraising efforts have also started with players reaching out to families and friends to help defray the costs of the Guam trip.

"At this early, we would like to thank those who have pledged to support our play-

ers. The NMIBF understands the challenges of bringing our teams to Guam to prepare for the Micro Cup, but with our collective efforts, we can find ways to realize this plan and give our players the opportunity to finally compete off-island," Lee said.

Thanks to Pacific Amusement, TSL Foundation

Meanwhile, the NMI Senior National Basketball Team Program players are utilizing two practice uniforms for their training sessions, thanks to Pa-

cific Amusement, Inc. and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Pacific Amusement has donated 40 reversible uniform, while the TSL Foundation provided 40.

"These uniforms are important to us, especially when we do team drills and play scrimmages. Thank you very much to Pacific Amusement, Inc. and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation," Diaz said.

Besides donating practice uniforms, the TSL Foundation has also allowed the men's and women's pool to train at the TSL Sports Complex. (PR)

NMSA

From Page 24

facilities the way they found them and to clean up after themselves.

The association is also reminding OSC users to follow

user guidelines, specifically those utilizing the track and field facility. No pets, bikes, strollers, and any motorized vehicle are allowed at the track and only athletics/running shoes must be worn to avoid causing damage to the

rubberized surface. Recreational runners, walkers, and joggers are encouraged to use Lanes 6 to 8, as Lanes 1 to 5 are reserved for athletes in training. Children should not be left unattended at all times.

For groups planning to

train or hold events at the track and field facility, reservations should be made and approved by the NMSA. For more information about the usage of the OSC facilities, contact NMSA at marianassports@gmail.com. (PR)

MOTHER

From Page 24

cial experience for her and it's something that she may not experience again."

Ryu and Shin had the division's biggest upset when they shocked No. 1 seed Serin Chung and Matthew Berline in the semifinals, 4-2, 4-2. Before that they were involved in a protracted 5-3, 3-5, 10-3 win over Hye Jin Elliot and

Steven Hong.

In the U18 mixed doubles, Elliot won her second championship of the tournament after teaming up with Cody Shimizu. The No. 1 seeds beat Serin Chung and Simon Tang in the finals, 8-6.

"I'm happy that we won. Cody's a good teammate and we have a good dynamic and teamwork going on," said Elliot, who also won the women's open after also turning back good friend

Chung in the finals.

Shimizu thanked Elliot for bringing the best out of him in the finals.

"Winning the U18 mixed doubles with Hye Jin was a great experience especially since we only had one match and we had to win it. Playing with Hye Jin was really fun and competitive she's a great doubles partner and very coordinated in the court," he said.

The 2022 SIS Student

Council Tennis was held as a fundraiser for Saipan International School's Student Council and is sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

The sponsors of the event are the following: Mango Six Café, Sura Restaurant, Café 670, All Star Sporting Goods and Boarderline, Joeten Superstore, Plumeria Steakhouse, Java Joe's, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Summer Snow Café.

U19 National Team will be coached by Jershwin Angeles, while Martin Jambor will be the team manager. The squad will face the Men's All-Star, which will be coached by NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita and will have players coming from the various teams that competed in the MSL Cup.

In the women's exhibition game on Monday, the NMI Women's U18 will be managed by Angie Ito, while her counterpart on the Women's All-Star is Kelsey McClellan. The NMI Women's U18's

roster is expected to feature players who saw action in the Hafa Adai Cup of the Marianas Soccer League Fall Season 2021, while the Women's All-Star crew are made up of players in the Intermediate and Premier divisions of the Dove Women's Fall League 2021 and some former national team members.

Each exhibition match will be played in two 45-minute halves. The games are organized to support the two NMI teams' preparations for training camp and matches in Guam next month.

the afternoon and continuing into the evening.

Hotel accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, Marpo Valley Inn, and Western Lodge.

Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach Beach (barbecue pits, indoor showers, and toilets are available).

The 50K Pika Bike Race will begin at 6am at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian.

Registration is \$40.

Registration forms and payment may be submitted at The Bike Shop in Courtney's Plaza on Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The first 35 paid registrants

will be given a free ferry ride

from Saipan to Tinian on

Feb. 18 at 5pm and a free re-

turn ferry trip from Tinian to

Saipan on Feb. 19 at a time to

be determined.

"We're excited to have

the Pika Bike Race return

as a part of this year's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, as it

provides many bikers a much

anticipated opportunity to

enjoy the safe and scenic

roads of Tinian," said MVA

Community Projects man-

ager Martin Duenas. "We are

finalizing the ferry sched-

ule and will be announc-

ing dates, times, and prices once

confirmed. In the meantime,

we encourage bikers to reg-

ister for the race as soon as

possible at The Bike Shop

so they can avail of the free

ferry ride for the first 35 paid

race registrants."

For a registration form or

more information on the 50K

Pika Bike Race, contact Alex

Gozon at alexgozon@ya-

hoo.comalexgozon@yahoo.

com or 1.670.234.2665.or

1.670.234.2665.

The festival will have a

soft opening at 6pm on Feb.

18 at the Fiesta Grounds in

San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to

Jones Beach. On Feb. 19 and

20, booths will open at 10am

with live entertainment and

competitions beginning in

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	28	16	.636	—
Philadelphia	26	18	.591	2
Boston	23	23	.500	6
Toronto	21	21	.500	6
New York	22	23	.489	6½

Southeast Division

Miami	29	16	.644	—
Charlotte	25	20	.556	4
Washington	23	22	.511	6
Atlanta	19	25	.432	9½
Orlando	8	38	.174	21½

Central Division

Chicago	28	15	.651	—
Milwaukee	28	19	.596	2
Cleveland	27	19	.587	2½
Indiana	16	29	.356	13
Detroit	11	33	.250	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	31	16	.660	—
Dallas	26	19	.578	4
San Antonio	17	28	.378	13
New Orleans	16	28	.364	13½
Houston	14	32	.304	16½

Northwest Division

Utah	29	16	.644	—
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**Goodbye, Garbiñe:
No. 3 Muguruza
bows out at
Australian Open**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Back-to-back
soccer matches
at NMISTC**

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24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI hoops teams face challenges ahead

Players in the NMI Senior National Basketball Team Program are back on the grind and will have to push themselves harder in training sessions as the inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup has been scheduled to take place in June this year in Guam.

FIBA Oceania has announced early this week that the FIBA Micronesian Cup will be held from June 8 to 15, instead of the initial plan of late this year. The FIBA Micronesian Cup will be used as qualifier for the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands after the 2022 Micronesian Games set for the Marshall Islands has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Palau, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia will join Guam and the NMI in the FIBA Micronesian Cup that now sits alongside the FIBA Melanesia Cup and FIBA



Polynesia Cup in the competition pathway for Oceania nations.

"The program has resumed last week after the holiday break and we are on Phase 3. At this stage, we are seeking full commitment from our men's and women's players, as we have just about six months before the FIBA Micronesian Cup," said Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, who met with the men's and women's pools and the coaching staff led by head coach Joe Diaz early this month.

Phase 3 will cover training
See NMI on Page 23

Mother-son pair tops mixed open

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The mother-and-son pair of Jessie Kim and David Kwon made it a family affair by winning the mixed doubles 5.0 of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Kim and Kwon, the No. 2 seeds, edged the unseeded pair of Sam Ryu and Rachel Shin, 7-6, 7-6, in the finals to win



the premier division of the mixed doubles division.

Mother and son advanced to the finals after subduing Julia Ishikawa and Kuu Nishimura via walker and got a bye in the first round.

"It was very special for me playing that match with my mom," said Kwon.

He said his mother also shared the same sentiment and is proud of what they were able to achieve in the tourney.

"My mom said it was a spe-

See MOTHER on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David Kwon and his mother, Jessie Kim, pose for a photo at the American Memorial Park tennis courts a few days after winning the mixed doubles 5.0 of the 2022 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Players and officials of the NMI Senior National Men's Basketball Team Program, top photo, wear the practice uniform donated by Pacific Amusement, Inc., during a team meeting early this month at the Oleai Sports Complex, while the women's crew has the training uniform donated by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

NMSA stays on top of Oleai Sports Complex upkeep



The Northern Marianas Sports Association has stayed on top of the maintenance work at the Oleai Sports Complex to provide safety and convenience to the general public and national athletes utilizing the facility.

Over the last several weeks, the NMSA and staff from the Governor's Office assigned to the complex have been working on improving the parking lot and the surrounding areas of the OSC. Disabled parking signs have been installed while vehicle stoppers, curb lines, stripes, and other markings in the parking lot have been repainted.

Additionally, cracked vehicle stoppers have been removed for repair, sidewalks have been pressure-washed and cleaned, while the curb along Beach Road and arrows on the pavement at the parking entrances and exits have been painted.

"As we wait for the major renovations at the Oleai Sports Complex, the NMSA is doing its best to maintain the safety and cleanliness of our facilities, including the parking lot. This regular maintenance work provides additional safety and visibility for drivers, pedestrians, and users of

the OSC," NMSA executive director Carline Sablan said.

The ongoing improvement project is made possible through the assistance of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership Equipment Lending Program, which provided paint and cleaning tools to the NMSA. The NMSA has also been working with the Saipan Mayor's Office for the maintenance of the OSC grounds.

Both the Miguel "Tan

Ge" Basa Pangelinan Softball Field and the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field have been undergoing regular ground maintenance, as the two facilities are now being used by baseball players training for this year's Pacific Mini Games. Members of the NMI basketball federation's Senior and Junior National Basketball Program, on the other hand, are utilizing the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to prepare for competitions in Guam later

this year, while the track and field facility hosts a growing number of runners/walkers besides the NMI athletics team pool getting ready for the Mini Games.

Keep facilities clean; give way to national athletes

Meanwhile, the NMSA requests the public's cooperation in maintaining the cleanliness of the sports complex. Users are asked to leave

See NMSA on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Sports Association and staff from the Governor's Office assigned to the Oleai Sports Complex have been doing improvement work at the parking lot and surrounding areas of the facility over the last several weeks.